Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-040
Wednesday
28 February 1990

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FBIS-NES-90-040 *28 February 1990*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

News Statement Issued at ACC Summit Conclusion

JN2502092590 Amman Television Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 24 Feb 90

["Press statement" issued at the conclusion of the Arab Cooperation Council summit; read by official summit spokesman Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in Amman on 24 February—recorded]

[Text] Upon the generous invitation of His Majesty King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and in implementation of Article 8 of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC]'s foundation agreement, the second session of the ACC Supreme Council convened in Amman, the capital of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, 23-24 February, with the presence of Their Excellencies President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the Yemen Arab Republic, President Saddam Husayn of the Republic of Iraq, and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Supreme Council's first session, opened the meeting with a comprehensive speech in which he thanked His Majesty King Husayn, the Jordanian Government, and the Jordanian people for the great hospitality and welcome with which Jordan's guests—leaders and officials—were received.

His excellency praised the achievements during the first year since the founding of the ACC. He called for applying the approved agreements and turning them into tangible realities. His excellency comprehensively presented the developments and events in the region and the new changes in the Arab and international arenas, especially the change in the world balance of power, the options available before the Arab nation to confront these changes, and the implicit threats they pose to pan-Arab security.

His Majesty King Husayn, chairman of the ACC Supreme Council's second session, delivered a speech in which he welcomed his brother leaders and delegations of the ACC states. In their name, he praised the honest and concerted efforts by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and the fraternal Iraqi Government during his chairmanship of the Supreme Council's first session. He praised the great achievements realized on the level of joint action in all fields and sectors.

His majesty expressed his pleasure over meeting his brother leaders in Amman, within sight of the captured holy city of Jerusalem. He praised the valiant Palestinian people's intifadah and affirmed that the strength and closed ranks of the Arab stand form the best support for the Palestinian people's intifadah.

His majesty affirmed that the agreements that were signed are now in the stage of implementation, and the resolutions and recommendations which strengthened the concepts of coordination, cooperation, and solidarity expressed the true belief of the ACC countries—governments and peoples—in the goals, principles, and joint values of the Arab nation. They also expressed determination to proceed with firm steps toward realizing pan-Arab interests and goals.

In the speech delivered by His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, he affirmed that the ACC countries believe in and call for peace and oppose war, violence, and oppression. Since they defend human rights, they believe, therefore, that respecting the rights of a certain people cannot be achieved by violating the rights of another people. Therefore, they stand rigidly against attempts to settle Soviet or other immigrants in the occupied Palestinian territories including Jerusalem.

His excellency also affirmed Egypt's full support for Jordan in confronting the dangers resulting from Jewish immigration to the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and the determination to resolutely confront the threats waged against Jordan. He affirmed Egypt's definite commitment to stand by Jordan in confronting the aggressive ambitions targeting it.

The leaders heard with interest His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's detailed explanation of the steps taken by the two parts of Yemen to realize the Yemeni unity declaration on 30 November of this year.

They also expressed their welcome and support for this unity step down the path of the comprehensive greater Arab unity. The four Arab leaders studied with great interest the recent international changes. They expressed their confidence in the Arab nation's ability to deal with these changes while maintaining its national interests and working to resolve its fateful issues.

The leaders also conducted a thorough discussion of the influx of Jewish emigrants from the USSR and Eastern European states to the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and also of the repercussions and dangers entailed in this emigration. They stressed the need to work to end it, considering that it constitutes a violation of international law and human rights, an encroachment on the national rights of the Palestinian people, a threat posed to pan-Arab security and the entire Arab order, and a thwarting of the efforts being made to reach a comprehensive and durable peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict.

In this regard, they referred to the special responsibility that must be shouldered by both the USSR and the United States and urged them to work to end this emigration. The leaders also reviewed the situation in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and expressed pride in the heroic struggle being waged by the Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation—the struggle embodied by the blessed intifadah, which has entered its third year confirming the Palestinian people's determination to regain their legitimate rights, foremost among which are their rights to self-determination and

to establish their independent state on their national soil. The leaders reiterated the need to hold an international peace conference under UN auspices to realize a comprehensive and just settlement. They also voiced their support for the PLO in its efforts to take part in all phases of the peace process in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. They also paid tribute to the efforts made by the PLO and to what it has done to advance the peace process. They affirmed that the major obstacle impeding the attainment of peace lies in the intransigent Israeli stand on the efforts being made to achieve it.

The ACC leaders reviewed the current situation between Iraq and Iran and expressed grave concern over the deadlock in the peace negotiations sponsored by the UN secretary general due to the persistently negative Iranian stance and also due to Iran's intransigence and extortionate and impossible conditions. The ACC leaders stressed the need to strive to achieve a comprehensive, just, and durable peace between Iraq and Iran and in the Arabian Gulf region through the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 of 1987 as a peace plan. They also affirmed the need to resume direct and real talks between the two sides under the auspices of the UN secretary general in accordance with the 8 August 1988 agreement to reach a common understanding of the provisions contained in Resolution 598 and also of a timetable and measures designed to implement these provisions in a manner that would eventually lead to the attainment of a comprehensive and durable peace according to which the two sides would commit themselves to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of one another and not interfere in the internal affairs of one another. Furthermore, the leaders stressed the need to see the two sides expedite efforts to reach an agreement designed to consolidate the cease-fire, an agreement that would spell out each side's obligations.

The four leaders also stressed the need to work expeditiously to end the suffering of the prisoners of war, whose use as a tool for political pressure is banned by international charters. They called for compliance with Article 3 of Resolution 598 and Article 118 of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949 which call for the immediate release of prisoners of war and for exchanging them immediately after the termination of hostilities.

Moreover, the ACC leaders reiterated their backing for the Casablanca summit resolution, which emphasized support for Iraq's firm stand that is prompted by a desire to preserve its unity, its territorial integrity, and its historical rights to sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab. The Jordanian, Egyptian, and Yemen Arab Republic leaders reiterated that they strongly welcome and highly value the peaceful, humanitarian initiative announced by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn of the Republic of Iraq on 5 January 1990.

The leaders view this initiative as a precious opportunity to achieve an honorable settlement that would restore security and stability to the Arabian Gulf region and bolster world peace.

Concerning the tragic situation in Lebanon, the leaders expressed their appreciation for the efforts made by the Higher Tripartite Arab Committee to reach a solution to this plight—a solution that would guarantee the independence, sovereignty, and unity of Lebanon, its land, people, and institutions. They also called upon the Lebanese factions to end the infighting, the exorbitant cost of which is being paid by all sons of the Lebanese people. They urged the international community to pressure Israel to make it implement Resolution 425, which calls for an Israeli troop withdrawal from southern Lebanon to enable the legitimate government to extend its authority over all of Lebanon. Moreover, they called for the withdrawal of non-Lebanese troops from Lebanon.

Besides, the leaders paid due attention to the issue pertaining to Arab water resources and expressed a desire to continue to deal with this issue according to the seriousnes it deserves on the basis of compliance with the rules of the international law and international charters to ensure that the acquired Arab rights will be preserved and that good, neighborly ties will be safeguarded.

In addition to this, the leaders reviewed the situation in the Red Sea region and affirmed the need to see peace, stability, and security prevail in this region in a manner that would ensure the freedom of navigation therein and keep it detached from international conflicts and regional tensions.

The leaders voiced satisfaction with the release of African leader Nelson Mandela and extended greetings to the peoples of southern Africa, expressing support for their struggle to end apartheid and racial segregation. They also congratulated the Namibian people on their independence, the fruit of a protracted and bitter struggle, reiterating their eagerness to work continuously to develop and bolster Arab-African ties.

Having taken note of the agreements and draft resolutions submitted by the ACC Ministerial Council which met in Baghdad, capital of the Republic of Iraq, during the period 16-17 January this year, the leaders have decided to approve the following:

1. The agreement between the ACC member states on scientific and technological cooperation.
2. The agreement between the ACC member states on cooperation in the planning domain.
3. The agreement between the ACC member states on industrial cooperation.
4. The agreement between the ACC member states on cooperation in the field of oil and gas.
5. The agreement between the ACC member states on tourism cooperation.
6. The agreement between the ACC member states on cooperation in the field of local government and municipal affairs.

7. The agreement between the ACC member states on health cooperation.
8. The agreement between the ACC member states on cooperation in the field of meteorology.
9. The agreement between the ACC member states on cooperation in the field of air transport and civil aviation.
10. The agreement between the ACC member states on cooperation on land transportation of persons and commodities.
11. Lastly, the agreement between the ACC member states on cooperation in the field of religious affairs.

Al-Qasim Answers Reporters on ACC Issues

JN2502083790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and official spokesman for the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] summit, answered questions posed by reporters.

Answering a question concerning the speed with which the summit concluded its work, he said: The work of the summit was concluded in one day since the agreements that were approved had been discussed throughout last year, and the final draft was approved in the Ministerial Council meetings recently held in Baghdad.

In answer to a question regarding the ACC's plan to confront Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, the minister said: There are certain trends among our leaders for us to make a move, along with our other Arab brothers, starting with the Arab Foreign Ministers Council meetings, to be held the middle of next month in Tunis, where these meetings will be the starting point of a comprehensive and integrated Arab plan in the U.S., Soviet, and European arenas, interposed by parallel action on a ministerial level during the UN Security Council meetings to be held next month.

Responding to a question on the mechanism to be followed by the ACC to achieve Arab solidarity, he said: We must undoubtedly have commitment and full conviction of the necessity of realizing Arab solidarity, since such solidarity is the only practical solution for the dangers facing the Arab nation in the economic, security, political, and food fields. We in the ACC countries are fully convinced of the importance of realizing Arab solidarity. We do not propose Arab solidarity merely as a slogan, but as an urgent need in a world where there is no place for individual countries, no matter how large or rich. Today's world is one of blocs; therefore, Arab solidarity concerning the ACC countries is the basis for the continuation and survival of the Arab nation.

In answer to a question on the unity of the two parts of Yemen and on whether the united Yemeni state will become a member of the ACC, al-Qasim said: His Majesty King Husayn, President Saddam Husayn, and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak blessed the efforts being made in both parts of the Yemen to realize unity. Any effort that brings the Arab countries closer to each other is an effort toward realizing the ACC goals. Therefore, if the brothers in the two parts of the Yemen agree to establish the united Yemen Arab republic, then the opportunity is open for the two parts of the Yemen to join the ACC.

'Most Important Proceedings'

JN2602110390 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Feb 90

["Most important proceedings" of a news conference by Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian foreign minister and official spokesman of the Arab Cooperation Council, at the conclusion of the Council's summit in Amman on 24 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Reporter] Mr. Minister, while reviewing Israel's threats to Jordan in his speech today, His Majesty King Husayn mentioned Israel's objection to a non-Jordanian military presence on the Jordanian territory. Would you explain Jordan's position on this issue? And is it possible to have non-Jordanian military forces on Jordanian territory in case the eastern front heats up?

[Al-Qasim] In fact, his majesty was basically making it clear that any such things are related to the sovereignty of this country on its territory. When it deals with the perils it is confronting, Jordan proceeds from a fundamental concept; namely, its right to defend itself. Any measure that Jordan takes in coordination with its Arab brothers—whether Egypt, Iraq, Syria, or the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—falls within Jordan's right to sovereignty. This, in fact, is a clear answer and basic clarification. When Israel concentrates on coordination among the Arabs, it tries to show this as negatively affecting the peace process, but the fact is that Israel is the only party in this region that rejects the concept and principle of peace with its neighbors. As you know, what the Arabs have done—especially the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—over the past two years makes it absolutely certain that all the Arabs have a genuine desire for a just and lasting peace, and that the setback was a result of the Israeli intransigence and obstinacy. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn today launched a fierce campaign against the United States. At the same time, there are growing relations between Egypt and the United States, and there are up-and-down relations between the United States and Jordan. Does this not make one believe that there is a discrepancy in positions toward the United States?

[Al-Qasim] I do not think there is a discrepancy, but rather an integration of the concerned Arab countries' concepts of how to deal with the United States. For example, Jordan highlights the real danger and real enemy that has expanded at the expense of the Palestinian people and their rights and that may pose the same threat to neighboring countries. President Saddam

Husayn stressed that Israel benefits from its relations with this superpower, the United States. Therefore, his excellency the president explains the importance of dealing with the United States through pan-Arab interests—that is, relations between the Arabs and the United States should be based on overall Arab interests and not on interests between individual states. When President Muhammad Husni Mubarak talked about the state of peace, he said that the ACC countries, like all the Arab countries since the Algiers and Casablanca summit, emphasized their desire to bring about peace to the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Therefore, there is no discrepancy, but treatment from different perspectives, all leading to the achievement of the one pan-Arab goal; namely, that the Arab nation is seeking peace and that the United States, if it has interests in this region, must realize these interests and endeavor to achieve peace. In a state of peace, the U.S. interests might be served better than in a state of no peace. Jordan, which knows and has lived the Palestine catastrophe and suffering, and which sees the Israeli dangers, explains this threat. This, then, is integration, not contradiction.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, in his speech today his majesty warned against escalating the Israeli campaign against Jordan and said that Jordan suffers a shortage of resources and capabilities. Have the Arab leaders meeting in Amman adopted any measure to satisfy Jordan's needs? My other question: You pointed out the importance of the Arab summit, but it was noticed that the final ACC summit statement did not call for the convening of this summit. Does this mean that the summit is now impossible in light of the three Arab groupings?

[Al-Qasim] Regarding the first part of the question, the pledges made by the three presidents through their continuous deliberations with his majesty the king and through the speeches we heard stress absolute support for Jordan against any attempt to harm or attack this country. Supporting and backing Jordan, in the final analysis, is support and backing for pan-Arab security and order. No Arab country is remote from the Israeli danger. As regards the lack of call by the four leaders to hold Arab summit, the fact, as I explained yesterday and today, is that we do not call for slogans but we want to achieve what must be a program of action for this nation. As regards the three groupings, we believe that dealings through them is better than the situation in the seventies, for instance. There is a possibility of stronger coordination and harmony than if we were 21 countries dealing individually. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] With regard to the king's speech this morning, you said that any measure that Jordan takes in coordination with its Arab brothers falls within Jordan's right to sovereignty. Do we take this as a message to Israel that there is military coordination and that some agreements were reached with some Arab countries—and you mentioned Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Syria in particular—to help Jordan in case of a possible Israeli attack?

[Al-Qasim] The threat to Jordan, first, is a pan-Arab question, and, last, is related to world peace and security. It is certainly not possible for a state like Israel to single Jordan out. I think Israel realizes this. There are not any military or strategic alliances, but there are Arab commitments and Arab and non-Arab assurances on the need to maintain peace in this region, especially by the countries that continuously and publicly talk about the need to bring peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors. Jordan is not alone in this world; it has its constituents; it has its people and army, which defends the soil of this country and the dignity, honor, and existence of the Arab nation.

[Reporter] Egyptian statements in Amman today stressed support for any measure towards Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation. Have you arrived at something in this regard during the meeting, especially in light of the call for Arab solidarity? The second part of my question concerns the subject of immigration, which you talked about in detail during the summit. Have you reached any practical steps apart from those you told the journalists about?

[Al-Qasim] Regarding the first part of the question, we consider any endeavor that leads to relaxation between two Arab countries as a basic, necessary pan-Arab duty because it takes the Arab nation to a better state of affairs. This is especially true when we look at the resources, capabilities, and geography and find that healing the rift between Syria and Iraq is a goal that every Arab hopes to realize as soon as possible. Time is a very important factor, and whenever there is Arab fragmentation, there is threat and the others will benefit at the expense of the Arab rights. With regard to the mechanism to affect the immigration, I think there are many examples that we can take to affect concerned countries and consequently the immigration. In his speech this morning, President Saddam Husayn said when there was an attempt to move foreign embassies to Jerusalem, there was a clear Saudi-Iraqi stance towards the countries that had or wanted to move their embassies to Jerusalem, and that made them retract. I believe that there are similar possibilities through unified Arab efforts and commitments, not only by the ACC. Such common efforts may have a clear impact, whether on the United States or even the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

ACC Leaders Comment Following Fourth Summit

Egypt's Mubarak Remarks

JN2402221090 Amman Television Service in Arabic 2128 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Remarks by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to unidentified reporter following the conclusion of the summit of the Arab Cooperation Council Supreme Council in Amman on 24 February—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] The Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers and the U.S. secretary of state are expected to meet. Is this meeting related to the Egyptian 10-point initiative?

[Mubarak] You know that this initiative was proposed in July in coordination with the PLO, and we were not alone. Afterwards, there was some faltering brought about by Israel, and the U.S. secretary of state proposed what came to be known as the Baker five-point plan. Talks and discussions about the tripartite meeting then followed to decide on the Palestinian delegation and the agenda, which are the two points discussed yesterday by Baker and [Israeli Foreign Minister] Arens. When these two points become clear, I mean the formation of the delegation and the conference agenda, I hope this meeting will begin. This will be a Palestinian-Israeli meeting, and I do not want to talk more about it until it is over.

Regarding the alternative homeland, which I heard you asking my brother his majesty the king about, the word alternative homeland cannot be said by a sane or stable man or by anyone concerned about human rights. No sane man can talk about the alternative homeland, or say that he wants to expel a certain people from their homeland and replace them with another people. This does not mean human rights, the slogans which we know about. Such a man will not be a peace-loving man or one seeking a solution. I believe that only a small group raises the slogan of the alternative homeland. I also believe that there are many wise men in Israel who realize the meaning and dangers of that word, which means the continuation, and even an increase, of fighting and violence in the region.

I hope we will achieve legitimate rights. I also hope we will be able to give people their rights and not to deprive them of these rights.

Leaders' Statements

JN2502122390 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Recorded passages contained within quotation marks]

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn, chairman of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] Supreme Council, made statements to reporters after concluding the summit in which he evaluated the Amman summit proceedings by saying that the day which witnessed the fraternal meeting was a blessed day:

"It is truly a blessed day. In my name and on behalf of all the sons of this country, this region, this part of the great homeland, I say that we are proud of the achievements. Our hopes for the future are great. We are also happy to have had the chance to welcome the dear brothers, leaders of the ACC states, and to discuss all issues in a healthy and stable atmosphere which we encountered from the outset proceeding from our concern over the interests of this nation—an atmosphere of clarity, frankness, and openness. We ask God to guide us and render our concerted march a success for the benefit of this nation. We also wish to direct our love, greetings, and pride to all the sons of our nation in the great homeland, especially in the ACC states."

Answering another question concerning the role of the United States in the Middle East peace process after the recent political changes in the world, his majesty said:

"The United States undoubtedly plays a big and very important role in this world. I believe, however, that what concerns us in this region and the great Arab homeland is our responsibility to reach cooperation and integration to guarantee the future for the coming generations which is their right."

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih also spoke to reporters on the recent changes and developments leading to unity between the two Yemens, and said:

"The unity steps are taking the right course. The committees are now working to merge the institutions, ministries, governmental interests, laws, and regulations. The historic Aden agreement which we signed on 30 November differs completely from the previous unity agreements because it has entered a serious stage. Now, all laws, regulations, and lists that are proposed are agreed upon by both sides without any dispute. God willing, 30 November 1990 will be the last date for declaring the united Yemeni state." [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemen Arab Republic deputy prime minister and foreign minister, spoke to our correspondent Khalil al-Qaryuti on their evaluation of the fourth ACC summit. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said:

"We consider the meeting a success according to any standards and believe that it achieved its goals. No doubt that what resulted from the meeting among the leaders, and afterwards the achievements realized in the way of action, agreements, and recommendations is not alien to the peoples of the four countries. I consider that although the time period was brief a great deal was achieved. There is a feeling of satisfaction. God willing, we wish the ACC success in realizing its goals of peace, stability, and growth."

On the same subject, Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani said:

"No doubt, the resolutions and decisions were of great importance and dealt with the ambitions and aspirations of the four countries' peoples concerning what might be realized within this important pan-Arab cooperation. In addition, of course, there was concentration on current events dealing with developments taking place internationally and locally, as well as affirming complete solidarity among the ACC states in the face of any challenge or aggression on any of these countries, especially what has recently been issued by circles aggressive to fraternal Jordan, which was an integral part of the special deliberations between the leaders and the public speeches in which they announced their full support for fraternal Jordan. In addition, of course, discussion centered on the first Arab cause, the Palestine question, and the new dangers threatening it, especially the emigration from the Soviet Union and other East European countries.

Discussions also centered on solutions for the closed circle we confront concerning the issue of a just peace between Iraq and Iran. All these achievements are results which every Arab citizen feels proud of."

More Comments on Issues

JN2502172090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Meeting with reporters by Jordan's King Husayn, Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, and Yemen Arab Republic President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih at the Queen 'Alia International Airport in Amman "earlier" today—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified reporter] The topic at the center of the discussion was the emigration of Soviet Jews to Arab land. Was the agreement reached by the brothers in the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] sufficient, or is there a call for a full Arab summit to discuss this subject?

[Mubarak] I leave the response to my brother his majesty the king, as he is the chairman of the ACC Supreme Council.

[Husayn] Thank you, Mr. President. What is next? We have plenty to do and achieve, God willing. We are in the second year of the ACC, which is moving in the right direction to achieve real integration and cooperation in all fields. In the next phase, we will endeavor to translate what has been agreed into a reality that has an impact on the Arab people in the ACC countries and the Arab world in general. With respect to the Arab situation, we, undoubtedly, need to create a new situation and a position that will enable us to face the challenges. This is our duty toward future generations. We are always in favor of meetings with brother leaders in the greater homeland, and we think that, this time, preparations for the meeting should be made to ensure the desired result. We, with God's help, will do our best to achieve this.

[Reporter] Your Majesty the King, the preparations bode well, but we are asking whether there will be a call in the near future to join Arab forces to face up to this challenge?

[Husayn] A call by whom?

[Reporter] A call for holding an Arab summit.

[Husayn] Yes, of course, sir. We are [word indistinct] to hold a summit. What I meant to say is that I and my brothers have embarked on contacts to prepare the appropriate atmosphere for ensuring the meeting is fruitful.

[Reporter] Your Excellency President Mubarak, there have been Syrian-Iraqi meetings to discuss the subject of Euphrates waters. This promises to improve relations between the two countries. What do you think of this and about Jordanian-Egyptian coordination to clear the atmosphere between the two countries?

[Mubarak] Actually, I have no knowledge of any Iraqi-Syrian contacts about the Euphrates. However, the issue of waters is one that concerns us all, and great efforts must be exerted in this area because it effects people's lives. Regarding the clearing of the atmosphere, my brother his majesty the king has begun to do this, and has made, and is still making, great efforts do accomplish it. We must all help to clear the atmosphere and bring viewpoints of our brothers in the Arab nation closer so that we can have real Arab solidarity and unity. This calls for great efforts by all of us. In view of current international circumstances and the existence of various groupings, it is now essential that the Arab nation bring its viewpoints closer. We must also be closer in order to support each other in the face of the international problems.

[Reporter] You have called for rationality in dealing with the issue of human rights and Yitzhaq Shamir's statements about the alternative homeland in Jordan. Do not these statements contradict the human rights he is calling for?

[Mubarak] I do not recall Shamir making such a statement—but it was made by someone else. I believe that Yitzhaq Shamir fully understands the dangers of the alternative homeland. I cannot comment, therefore, because I do not have a clear statement on this by Israeli Prime Minister Mr. Shamir. I believe that Yitzhaq Shamir is fully aware of this and knows that the alternative homeland is a very serious issue, not only for the Arab nation, but for Israel as well—because we will have problems and could revert to 40 or 50 years ago. I believe that Israel is aware of this, even if there are one, two, or three people talking about this subject, which, I believe, will solve nothing, but will complicate things and make all of us—including Israel—suffer a catastrophe.

[Reporter] Your Excellency 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic, we congratulate you on the steps taken for unifying the two Yemens and pin great hopes on the united Yemen's presence in the ACC. What can you say about Egyptian-Yemeni coordination in facing problems and threats in the Red Sea?

[President Salih] There is constant consultation on every level between Yemen and Egypt. This is not new, but it has been going on for a long time. The security of the Red Sea is of concern to the littoral states. There is constant coordination, and we consult with all brother leaders about the safety and security of the Red Sea. We also consult about the new signs emerging after reports about an Israeli presence in Ethiopia and the building of stations to monitor the Arab world. If these reports are true, it will cause great concern to the states in the region. However, we are consulting with all brother leaders on this subject.

Jordan's King Husayn Interviewed

JN2502133790 Amman Domestic Service in English 1211 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] The leaders of the four member states of the one-year-old Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] concluded their summit in Amman yesterday evening. His Majesty King Husayn gave the following interview to Jordan Radio and Television at the conclusion of the ACC meeting.

His majesty was asked to comment on whether the meetings were cut short by one day:

[Begin recording] [Husayn] They weren't cut short, in point of fact. We had planned for two meetings—the opening one and the closing one, which took place last night. But the opportunity of the visit of my colleagues to Jordan gave us a chance which is quite unique to have spent as much time together as we could and to have had the opportunity to cover the end discussions, frank and open, all of which is of interest to the ACC, to the area, and a relation with what is happening about us and in the world as a whole. So, I am very very satisfied that everything was as it should have been and very very optimistic regarding the future.

[Reporter] But I also noticed that—we've noticed that—the absence of political statements, like there were agreements which were signed in the fields of technology, trade, tourism, things like that. Have you taken any stand concerning—in the ACC, of course—concerning the massive Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied land?

[Husayn] We have discussed the subject very, very thoroughly with all that it deserves and merits, and we are agreed about the dangers that are evident in terms of the possible impact on the area and particularly regarding the occupied territories and our brethreren there and the threat, as a result, to people and the denial of their human rights. If the subject is that of human rights, it cannot be based on a certain standard somewhere and on a different one elsewhere. But I believe that the feeling that we all have is that we should be very active, develop and evolve a position amongst all leaders to cope with the myriad of problems and challenges as we see them now and in the future. This is one of the major ones, but also I believe very firmly that we can't stop the clock: we can't turn it back. And we must look forward, and we must act together in an entirely different spirit to that that has existed so far. There were questions why not an Arab summit? When? When, when we are ready. And I believe that an Arab summit is a must, but it should be of a different kind to anything that we have been used to so far. So, there is a lot of groundwork to be done.

[Reporter] So, the ACC Council is not going to preclude the possibility of convening of an Arab summit?

[Husayn] Not at all, sir. We are working for complementality amongst the four countries. But we are also working for an Arab position which would enable us to move in the world and to present our case adequately and effectively. We are trying to regain for this nation a position that it must have in the world of today.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, bear with me, Jordan as a substitute country—this possibility I believe, or it is believed, that political realities really preclude this; it cannot happen; it is difficult. Yet, of late, you are seriously worried about this possibility. What is your comment on this?

[Husayn] I am worried in the context of what I see as an attempt to make life utterly impossible for our brethren within the occupied territories and possibly to replace by people who will arrive there from elsewhere in the world under whatever guise that might be. Now the problem is not one of a substitute state. I believe maybe the term is the wrong one, because as far as we are concerned we are the closest of all Arabs to this cause. We identify with it. It is ours. Palestinians and Jordanians are one family. And their rights are equal, here in particular, and everywhere in the Arab world. An Arab is an Arab wherever he goes and he has the same rights as all the members of the Arab family. At least that is my belief and that is what I would seek to see very [words indistinct] happen to reality. But the question is, really, how do we define the problem? The problem has always been a question of Palestinian Arab rights on Palestinian soil under occupation. And that is really the proper definition of the problem.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, one last question: What is the present American stand concerning progress towards the peaceful settlement? I mean right now, what is the American stand? We are puzzled by this.

[Husayn] Well, I am not fully aware of what the position is in any detail. In that regard, I can only say that it is changing; it is evolving. But the world as a whole is moving through so much change and witnessing and living through so much change that I am afraid that problems in this area have taken less of an important part in terms of the attention of the world as a whole, including the United States. There is a lot to be done. And as far as my colleagues and I in the ACC are concerned, we feel that very very strongly. But if there is anything that we should do beyond what we are doing—and we are very, very active—it has to stem from a coherent Arab position where people really realize what the threats are within, surrounding the Arab world, and regarding the future. We will work together with a different spirit and a different approach than what has been the case.

[Reporter] Supposing an Arab general summit did not succeed, then, Your Majesty, you will hang your hopes on the ACC as....

[Husayn, interrupting] I see for this great hope and optimism regarding the future. But I also have equally, as a hope, that we will all rise to the challenge in the Arab world as a whole. But to just call for a summit to discuss

a certain topic. I think there is much more to it than that. I have always welcomed any summit in the past and called for the meeting of leaders. However, this time it requires a lot of hard work. We really have to be honest with each other. We have to know each other properly. We have to discuss everything and anything that will enable us to face up to our responsibilities in a more adequate fashion. [end recording]

Foreign Ministers 'Aziz, 'Abd-al-Majid Cited

JN2502085590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] In Amman, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz said that his country wants the Arab countries and the international community to exert pressure on Iran to change its stand concerning the deadlocked peace talks. He said: The Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] leaders renewed their support for Iraq's stand in the summit held in the Jordanian capital. Mr. 'Aziz told REUTER that the ACC will continue its efforts in the Arab and international arenas to support the Iraqi peace initiative, urge Iran to accept it, and implement serious peace efforts toward reaching a comprehensive settlement.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that Cairo is awaiting Israel's answer to the peace proposals approved by Egypt and the PLO. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added in a statement to REUTER today in Amman that there is continuous coordination between the Palestinian and Egyptian sides and that their stands are clear and moderate.

'Aziz Denies GCC Iran-Iraq Mediation

JN2502125790 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Feb 90 p 24

[By the AL-DUSTUR mission at the Royal Cultural Center in Amman]

[Excerpt] Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that so far we have not heard any practical suggestion from the Soviet Union to implement its proposal on holding a meeting between the Iraqi and Iranian foreign ministers. We are still awaiting new details to follow up on this proposal.

He said in an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR mission at the Royal Cultural Center after the conclusion of the opening session of the fourth summit that the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] leaders agreed to draw attention to the dangers of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union to the occupied territories. This will be confirmed in the concluding statement of the summit.

Concerning the possibility of sending an Arab delegation to New York, Mr. 'Aziz said that there is a trend among a number of foreign ministers that a joint Arab delegation should travel to participate in the UN Security Council deliberations on the subject of emigration and express a strong and united Arab stand.

He expressed his hope that an agreement will be reached to form an Arab delegation during the Arab League meetings in Tunis on 10 March, 1990.

Answering a question on the ACC stands concerning the developments in the Lebanese crisis, Mr. 'Aziz said that the ACC countries are in full agreement on their analyses of the situation in Lebanon and the desired goals concerning this issue.

He said that there is no contradiction in the stands of any of the ACC countries. There are, however, different approaches to the al-Ta'if accord from various perspectives, and this is natural. It does not mean that there is any discrepancy in stands.

The Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister denied that there is an intention to form a delegation from the ACC to travel to Damascus to bring Syrian and Iraqi viewpoints closer together. There is no truth behind repeated reports concerning this issue.

He affirmed that there are no draft laws of a military nature on the agenda of the fourth summit. He said the agenda had been agreed upon and declared prior to the summit. He expressed pleasure over the convening of the summit in Amman and His Majesty King Husayn's chairmanship of the second session of the ACC.

He expressed his hope that this session will be active in implementing the agreements that were reached to realize our pan-Arab goals and that the peoples of the four countries would start to feel the achievements so that our steps would be supported on the popular level.

On the initiative proposed by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, he said: We are still working to push the peace process to its natural end of realizing just and comprehensive peace. Iran's insistence on its wrong stand will lead it to isolation. The international community is still calling for realizing a just and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran which is our stand in the ACC and the Arab stand in general adopts this.

Mr. 'Aziz affirmed that the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries did not, in their last summit in Muscat, decide to mediate between Iraq and Iran. He said that the visit by Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, dealt with issues having nothing to do with mediation. [passage omitted]

ACC Armies Agree on 'Joint Military Maneuvers'

JN2602080890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0720 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 Feb (WAKH)—News sources said here today that the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] leaders have agreed to carry out periodic joint military maneuvers of the ACC armies. These maneuvers will be carried out twice a year, each time in one of the ACC countries according to the nature and strategic, geographic, and technical character of the maneuvers.

AL-ITTIHAD cited ACC sources as saying that a core military unit formed from the armies of the four countries will also carry out a joint exercise in order to create a unified military pattern for some of the military corps, and that military leaders have been tasked with arranging a date and place for these exercises.

The paper added that there has also been an agreement not to buy the ACC armies' supplies of ammunitions, weaponry, and military hardware from foreign countries, and to give preference to the products of the ACC war factories in Egypt and Iraq, in addition to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

ACC Expected 'To Deliver Tangibly, Concretely'

JN2602092790 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Feb 90 p 4

["Weekly Political Pulse" column: "ACC Has Yet To Deliver" by Walid Sa'di]

[Text] In the wake of the first anniversary of the Arab Cooperation Council many Arab enthusiasts are posing questions about the speed with which the goals and aspirations of the Council are being translated into actions. Also on the occasion of the just concluded ACC summit Arab eyes are focused on the direction of the ACC. Most of all the Arab peoples of the four Arab states that make up the ACC are concerned lest this new embryonic grouping of Arab states end up where the Arab League has ended: a talking machine. With the kind of high expectations that were generated by the creation of the ACC a year ago, the Arab peoples of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and Yemen are impatiently waiting for their respective governments to deliver tangibly and concretely on their promises to transform this new Arab formation into a truly meaningful and effective nucleus for a broader Arab unification scheme.

Thus far, the steps taken to materialise these high expectations have been too slow and too little for the liking of the Arab peoples affected most by the ACC. No approaching spectacular actions have been taken so far and no great leaps forward are being projected. On the contrary there is a growing apprehension that the methodology of the ACC is reminiscent of that long pursued by the dying Arab League. At best, the ongoing measures undertaken by the concerned Arab governments resemble the traditional and orthodox Arab ways of developing bilateral relations. Much more is expected of the four ACC countries and much more has to be done to avoid the kind of cynicism that is usually generated everytime Arab governments talks about Arab unity. Uppermost on the minds of all Arabs who turned euphoric about the prospects of the ACC is to avoid at all cost the dinosaurian ways of the Arab League system which after so many decades has become obsolete and irrelevant for all intents and purposes.

The negative signals and indicators that all is not well and sound with the steps undertaken already towards unifying the four Arab states are indeed plentiful. For starters, the tariff barriers between them are anything but been dismantled. Freedom of travel beween the four has still a long way to go before reaching the level that could sugguest that the four countries are fast approaching the desired stage of unity and integration. Human contacts between the peoples of the four Arab states on most relevant levels is anything but growing or consolidating. No major steps have been adopted to unify or even coordinate the economies of the four states. Currency unification is not even contemplated much less considered. As for their policies, whether domestic or external, there are only faint whispers about putting the four countries on the same wave length. For example at a time when Egypt condemned the recent attack on the Israeli tourists, none of the other members made similar pronouncements. Moreover, there is no talk whatsoever about unifying or even coordinating the defences of the member states of the ACC. To put it more bluntly there is hardly any flesh on the skeleton of the ACC and not much of that is projected to occur as far as one can see.

Perhaps there is more than meets the eye and what goes on behind the scenes would paint a brighter picture than the one I have portrayed. Maybe there are a series of breakthroughs that have yet to be announced. There is nothing more that would please the minds and hearts of Jordanians, Iraqis, Egyptians and Yemenis than to prove their preliminary assessments wrong. As a layman, I for one, would never rest till I see and feel solid proof that the ACC is indeed a healthy Arab structure moving forward on solid grounds every step of the way. I yearn for the moment when our Egyptians, Iraqis, Jordanians and Yemenis are treated equally in every Arab country that makes up the ACC. I also yearn for the moment when borders between the four countries are torn down and freedom of travel between them becomes as fast and uncumbersome as that that exists within the European community countries for example. After all that is exactly what our governments had promised our peoples when they thought of the ACC in the first place. And until human contacts between the peoples of the four Arab states have been elevated to a level that befits all the rosy talk about the ACC, the entire exercise will remain a suspect in my mind and like-minded people across the four Arab countries.

I certainly envy the German people for the speed and seriousness with which they pursue their unification plans. It could not have escaped the minds of Arab peoples everywhere that the German people in East and West Germany have moved with great speed and courage to reunite themselves against formidable odds in a matter of weeks at a time when the Arab World has been talking about unifying for over six decades with no result in sight. Of course I am equally envious of the ECC countries for the serious and meaningful way with which they have waged their unity in a matter of short years and against giant obstacles. And of course I am most depressed to see every Arab attempt to unify the Arab peoples end up derailed by an open ended marathon of

rhetorics. That is why I cannot be satisfied with the pace of ongoing ACC steps. There is no hope for the Arab World in the face of the new and growing challenges and dangers that have erupted everywhere in the wake of the dismantlement of the Communist citadels across East Europe and the Soviet Union, except through forging genuine unity schemes instead of building sand castles everywhere.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat's Letter to Jewish Peace Conference

JN2702185190 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1613 GMT 27 Feb 90

["Text" of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's letter to "a peace conference held by leaders of world Jewry in Jerusalem last week"—read by announcer]

[Text] In view of the prevailing wave of change witnessed by the current stage in the history of mankind, the Palestinian people feel that the noble values that have been recrystallized—freedom, democracy, human rights—are the same values for which they are waging their heroic struggle which harmonizes with the new human reality and with the new features marking the end of this century. Our people, therefore, who have the right to existence, reassurance, security, and freedom, just like other peoples around the globe, have been able to contribute toward the process of revolutionary inspiration through their unique nationalist manifestations. They have also been inspired by the triumph of these values to derive new powers to resist oppression and occupation. Thus, the Palestinian intifadah is being developed by the new world climate, which, in turn, was given sublime human examples by the intifadah, as further expression of its enhanced confidence in its ability to endure until victory is achieved and to rally further world sympathy with its national and human objectives. The intifadah is also in total harmony with mankind's quest to formulate a democratic, free, and peaceful world and to raise the worth of human rights to the level of sanctity.

The popular Palestinian intifadah culminates the march of our people in exile and diaspora toward our homeland where we will stress our national identity and establish our right to self-determination, freedom, and national independence. The content of the intifadah is a peaceful one. Likewise, its manifestations are peaceful, as we have so far decided it shall be. Through resisting the occupation, the intifadah seeks freedom, peace, and coexistence on the basis of respect for all peoples in the region. It heeds no authority [marji'iyah] but its people's right to self-determination and independence like other peoples and it heeds no authority other than international legitimacy.

In light of the intifadah and its moral and political power, the PLO formulated in its Palestine National Council session in Algiers the Palestinian peace plan. We assume that you are aware of the contents of the Palestinian peace plan and of the fact that this plan is a strategic option, not a tactical maneuver, as the enemies of peace say. We also assume you know that this plan enjoys the full support of Palestinian, Arab, and international legitimacy. It is regrettable that this plan, which establishes peace and security for all and terminates the occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories, is met with a campaign of casting doubts and fears. The Israeli fears—whether natural or fabricated, real or fake—are fears which interest us and arouse our concern. This is because the continued use of them as pretexts slows the momentum of the historical and current settlement.

We deeply believe, however, that the only genuine security guarantee for the Israelis lies in judiciously heading towards the achievement of peace with the Palestinian people on the basis of terminating the occupation of the Arab and Palestinian territories and on the basis of joining us in the recognition of the principle of two states in accordance with the rules of international legitimacy and as stipulated by the Palestinian peace initiative, which has been supported and asserted on Arab and international levels through the Arab summits, the United Nations, the EEC, the socialist states, Japan, the Scandinavian states, the nonaligned states, and the Islamic and African states.

We also believe that the Palestinian people's political guarantees against the danger of Israeli maneuvers lie in the actual participation of the PLO—the sole, legitimate representative of Palestinian people everywhere under the occupation and the diaspora—in the peace process at every level and every stage. The peace process begins with those who can make peace and give guarantees for security and stability. Until this process begins, the Israelis' fears of the future will end only through international guarantees for the two sides within the international framework for peace and within the context of international responsibility. The Israelis' fears are parallel to the legitimate fears of the Palestinians who are suffering from repression, official organized terrorism, occupation and settlement, and deprivation of the simplest human rights and a free and honorable life.

Among your fears is also the fear of the right to repatriation. As this factor is used as an excuse to deepen that fear of peace and to answer it with the fire of all-destroying war, we believe that the solution to this issue can be found through accepting each other, agreeing on the principle of reciprocal recognition, and starting the negotiations. However, we must concentrate on a number of principles in our vision of the question of the right to repatriation. Repatriation is a legitimate right recognized by the United Nations in accordance with Resolution 19, issued in May 1949. It is also useful to recall Resolution 273, issued on 11 May 1949, under which Israel was admitted as a member of the United Nations and under which Israel pledged to respect the UN Charter and resolutions, including Resolution 194.

Hence, the right to repatriation is a sacred right, because it is connected with the essence of our legitimate right but we will accept negotiations on the condition that this right should be implemented. Resolution 194 will be the basis for discussions on this issue.

You also fear the framework of the peace process. Hence, I would like to stress that the Palestinian people need guarantees, like the other parties—and even more than other peoples—because the Palestinian people have gone from one loss to another, from one siege to another, and from one massacre to another. These guarantees can be obtained only from the superpowers and the United Nations, as in various international problems in other areas of the world, as well as through the participation of the concerned regional parties. This explains our insistence on an international framework for the solution that does not conflict with Israel's need for guarantees. This framework is the international peace conference.

In order to overcome obstacles in the way of the international conference—obstacles that originally resulted from Israel's intransigence supported and protected by the United States—to create an atmosphere of confidence, and to overcome Israeli concerns, the PLO has agreed to hold a dialogue between representatives of the Israeli Government and the Palestinian people. This dialogue will be held inside and outside [the occupied territories] on the condition that the dialogue be part of the comprehensive and final settlement and that its agenda include all the ideas, proposals, and issues—including the elections and the Egyptian 10-point plan. By rejecting the principle of dialogue with the PLO, by insisting on disrupting the unity of the Palestinian people, by refusing to apply the provisions of Resolution 242, and by rejecting the principle of land for peace, the Israeli Government does not only hamper the peaceful settlement process, but also undermines the propagandistic implication of the election plan, which it claims as its plan. By misleading world and Israeli public opinion, by gaining time to prolong the suffering of the Palestinian people, by quelling the intifadah, and by creating new demographic and political facts in the occupied Palestinian territories, Israel is hampering the peace settlement, freezing the peace process, and creating, whether we like it or not, a new destructive explosion in the region. At the same time, Israel is the only area in which there is an unlimited arsenal of weapons, including atomic, chemical, and conventional weapons. Is this the Israeli leadership's option? Regarding our option, we have affirmed and still affirm that we want peace. We want the peace of the brave, not the peace of surrender or victor and vanquished.

The PLO has presented all the commitments it could to achieve a solution and laid down grounds for a comprehensive peace that is based on international legitimacy, taking into account the balance of interests of all parties to the conflict. However, the PLO has not obtained from the official Israeli side any positive response or any commitment to the peace process. The Israeli Government walked in the opposite direction, continued to disregard the international unanimity and the calls of the Jewish communities. This government ignored all international peace initiatives, and continued to escape from the future through insistence on aimless travelling in the past and its myths and on walking against the tide of history and the winds of change that are blowing at all backward and frozen minds.

Despite this, despite this we will not relinquish the message of peace which we raised—until the end—for the sake of our and your children. We will not approach the abyss of despair which this official Israeli madness and the arrogance of the transitory force are digging for us as well as for you. We are looking to this meeting with optimism; we are looking for interaction of the message of a just and comprehensive peace in the awareness of the Israeli peace partisans—individuals and groups—and in the depth of world Jewish conscience. All those attending should form a moral and material pressure force to protect the Israeli human being from their leadership's devastating stubbornness in defense of their spiritual values and to safeguard their human values. Your moral and practical effect is big in Israel and elsewhere. We are expecting a great deal from your meeting to put pressure on the Israeli Government to continue with the peace process.

Throughout the history of mankind Jews have played a prominent role in the battles to defend freedom and humanity. Here, we should note the great men—the leaders of Jewish communities in the world—who always adopted these lofty stands.

Among the important issues which I address to you and call on you to discuss is the Israeli Government's attempt to invest the Soviet Jews' right to emigrate to cancel the Palestinian people's right to exist. Here, I would like to reiterate in front of you our stand on this matter unequivocally: We support the individuals' right to move and respect their freedom to choose the country in which they want to live. This right, however, has limits like any other rights; they can be defined as follows:

The limits of any right are drawn by the rights of other people and cannot be achieved at the expense of the other people. This right is the Palestinian people's right to live in their homeland and their right to resist the attempt to uproot them, displace them, and expel them. This is in addition to the Jewish emigrant's right to choose the country he wants to emigrate to, not to be driven by force against his will to where he does not want to go. This compulsory emigration will gradually lead—whether we like or not—to serious explosions that would deal a devastating blow to all settlement efforts.

Ladies and gentlemen, there is a historic opportunity to achieve peace in our region. Do not waste this opportunity, because delay and procrastination mean that years of destruction, death, and tragedy will pass before other appropriate opportunities arise.

Peace is inevitable. Peace here, here. Peace now, now. Peace for us, peace for you, peace for our and your

children; for our and your women. Peace for a future in which we build, not demolish. Peace for the land of peace, the land of prophets and messengers. Peace of prophets and messengers.

PFLP Says Use of Arms in Intifadah 'Necessary'

JN2702162690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] announced in Damascus today that the use of arms in the occupied territories is now necessary. In a statement today, the front denounced the massacre which, according to the front, was perpetrated in a Rafah camp yesterday, adding that the massacre is part of the Israeli Government's terrorist plan to repress the intifadah.

Bal'awi Meets With U.S. Ambassador Pelletreau

LD2702035290 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Mr. Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee and PLO representative to Tunisia, affirmed the necessity for the United States to shoulder its responsibility as a superpower in an effective and balanced way which would put an end to the atrocious Israeli stubborness and terrorism which the sons of the Palestinian people face in the occupied territories. This was stated during yesterday's meeting of the Palestinian official with U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia Mr. Robert Pelletreau Jr.

The Palestinian agency WAFA pointed out that Mr. Hakam Bal'awi emphasized during the meeting the importance and necessity for the U.S. Administration to adopt practical measures and a clear and decisive stance with regard to Israeli plans for settlement of Jewish refugees in the occupied territories. This would go along hand-in-hand with what is repeated by the U.S. Administration on the subject of settlement and its announcements of its commitment to work for peace. This would also give impetus and a new dynamism to the stumbling peace process and would save it from the critical situation in which it fell because of Israel's very serious stubborness and provocations, which threaten security and peace in the region.

CSSR Deputy Prime Minister Meets PLO Envoy

JN2402072390 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] CSSR First Deputy Prime Minister Jan Carnogursky has reiterated his country's support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO to realize their right to self-determination, repatriation, and the establishment of their independent state.

During his reception of the Palestinian ambassador to the CSSR, the CSSR first deputy prime minister stressed that his country will participate in international efforts to solve the Middle East problem in accordance with the UN resolutions. He pointed out that the CSSR Government will take into consideration the subjects raised by the Palestinian ambassador related to the Soviet Jews' immigration to occupied Palestine, as well as its impact on the peace process.

The Palestinian ambassador then briefed the CSSR first deputy prime minister on the latest developments in occupied Palestine following the escalation of the repressive and violent actions by the Israeli occupation authorities against our heroic people's intifadah, as well as the dangers of the Soviet Jews' emigration and their settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Algeria

Bendjedid's Opening Speech at Judicial Conference

LD2502235590 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1920 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Speech by President Chadli Bendjedid at the opening of the National Judges Conference in Algiers on 25 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] [applause] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Gentlemen, members of the legislative profession, brothers and sisters. It gives me pleasure to open your conference. It is a happy opportunity to hold this conference two days after the anniversary of an important event in the march of our life and at a time when a year has passed since the people, with full sovereignty, chose a constitution that affirms the basic freedoms, organizes the excercise of authority, and derives its foundation from the values of glorious November. Your conference today and the anniversary of the ratification of the constitution allow me the opportunity to evaluate with you the stages we have covered and the tasks we are required to continue along the path of transformation and renewal on which our country is proceeding.

The deep transformations being witnessed by society are the fruits of the economic and social progress recorded over the past 20 years. They have led to the establishment of new aspirations and demands, which have created disturbances in the progress of society. The guaranteeing of social progress has always been an urgent demand. Therefore, it is imperative that we, both individually and collectively, should undertake actively and with determination and resolution the political and economic initiative that has been imposed by the vitality of this change. By depending on the confidence and support of the majority, the will has been strengthened to go forward toward reform and arrive at the objective. I have been able to organize the necessary consultations to enable people to freely express their will and choice with regard to their destiny.

It would seem easy for all of us to notice today that the growth of basic freedoms in our constitution crystallize in a strong defense. The new society is becoming more organized every day. The amenability of the citizens to the idea of associations—which they are organizing in accordance with their deep aspirations for the freedom of association, gathering, and expression—is evidence of the broadening of the dialogue that is opening the way for comprehensive progress and guaranteeing the reasons for creative interaction.

The fabric of the new relationships in daily livings is benefiting from the healthy, vibrant climate to which the social structure is contributing, with all its variety and richness. It is also contributing to the enlightening of public opinion and to developing the critical voice of the citizen. Obviously, to organize these kinds of deep changes according to a methodical procedure will involve the need for modernization and the respect for the tenets of our Arab and Islamic virtues.

Here lies the significance of the initiative that for a year has drawn the landmarks of our path toward the future. Society increasingly and day after day is acquiring the means to defend the rights dictated by the people's will, as well as the means for their realization. [passage omitted]

The new rules organizing social relationships make consultations and negotiations a characteristic that epitomizes the development of a harmonious society. The purging of the economy and the organization of economic exchange networks all are proceeding toward stability and the liberation of the spirit of initiative and the promotion of sound competition.

Brothers and sisters. The educational and vocational training bodies are proceeding along the path of effectiveness through the adjustment of their curricula and the up-grading of training levels which enable the youth, who will be called upon to run the country in the future, to acquire a level compatible with the international levels. [passage omitted]

It is only fair for me to say at this point that the disturbances that appear here and there are contradicting those interests which portray the inevitability of gradual reform steps. This also means we are on the right path, although the realization of these reforms has claimed more time than anticipated. In other words, bureaucratic obstacles might arise and private interests also could exercise pressures in an attempt to check this vitality. These factors might slow the reforms temporarily and at certain places, but they will never be able to stop our open commitment to their realization in respect of the popular will, and they will not weaken this commitment.

The vitality of the democratic march cannot have its full evidence and total effectiveness unless it touches all aspects of economic, social, and cultural activity.

Brothers and sisters. In the economic field one cannot realize an effective mobilization of all human and material resources to put an end to imbalances and for the sake of reinforcing advancement and social justice. One cannot organize the undertaking to carry out deep transformations and secure the independence of the country's decision unless all this is done within a clear framework that outlines the areas of responsibility of the economic and social agents, and explains the scope of their decisions. Thus, the economic establishments will regain their full responsibilities in the field of supply, trade, industrial strategy, development, and human resources, and will be able to find the resources and organize their distribution on a purely economic bases. With regard to the workers, they then will be able to organize themselves freely and democratically in associations to defend their socio-vocational interests within the framework of the principles that organize social negotiations

and the development of the precautionary means against labor disputes and means for settling them.

As for the state, it will play a decisive role in fixing the economic and social tempo through the development of the legislative and economic tools that will enable those involved in the economic and social fields to clearly carry out their work, which will lead to advancement. One of the fundamental tasks of the state in the present circumstances is to organize the economic and financial purging process in a precise manner to guarantee revival and growth, the protection of the weak, and the realization of a more comprehensive social justice by means of a fair distribution and monitoring of incomes. It is important that all those involved in the political and economic, as well as social life should realize these (?wagers) and shoulder the tasks and responsibilities with which they have been entrusted, and distance themselves from the sideline problems that may endanger this work. [passage omitted] The methods of analysis and speech used in the past no longer express today's transformations and facts; in fact, they are obstructing democratic vitality and threatening society's development toward advancement and freedom.

It is absolutely impermissible to follow up any endeavor that contradicts the popular will, and here lies the demarcation line between us and the opponents of the constitution and democracy. This is what emphasizes our determination to fight them. [applause] For the sake of this, it is not permissible for us to deal with marginal questions, which have more appearance than content.

In these significant circumstances, we are concentrating our efforts to insure a suitable status for every Algerian, male or female, away from any marginality, as Algeria is in need of all its sons and daughters without exception in order to occupy its place in the world as a free nation, open to progress and deeply rooted in its history, values, and identity. [passage omitted] Your position at the forefront of responsibility as a result of the expansion of your competence and the independence of your judgments makes it imperative on you to promote the new rules for the running of society and for their success.

Brothers and sisters. You can see that our responsibility, private or collective, is based on our commitment to the success of the enormous work we are addressing ourselves to accomplish. [passage omitted]

May God light up our path with justice, bless our work and efforts, and may He provide us with His assistance. Peace and God's blessing be upon you. [applause]

Belgian Foreign Minister Meets With Ghazali

LD2602233890 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] The ministerial talks, headed by Mr. Ahmed Ghazali and his Belgian opposite number, Mr. Mark Eyskens, were expanded to include the delegations of the two countries at the Algerian Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Ahmed Ghazali welcomed the guest of Algeria and the accompanying delegation. He also gave a resume of the current political and economic reforms in Algeria, and also the bilateral economic and trade relations and the means to widen them in the future.

In his address, Mr. Ahmed Ghazali expressed Algeria's intention to preserve the trade relations between the two countries and to consolidate them by marketing larger quantities of natural gas in the Belgian markets.

Mr. Ahmed Ghazali also talked about the Arab Maghreb Union's relations with the EEC and the new style of dealing between the two groups.

UK Citizens Require Visas Beginning 1 Apr

LD2502091690 Algiers APS in Arabic 0850 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Algiers, 25 Feb (APS)—The Foreign Ministry has announced that the British authorities officially informed Algeria yesterday that Algerians traveling to Great Britain and Gibraltar will need a consular visa from 1 April 1990.

As a consequence of such a measure and in accordance with the principle of reciprocity, the Algerian Government has decided that Britons visiting Algeria will also need a consular visa from 1 April 1990.

Hashish Plantations Found in Timimoun

LD2602232890 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Excerpts] As Medellin, the Colombian capital of drugs, has its emperors, so the Algerian town of Timimoun also has its princes. The surprise comes from the depth of the desert and the fields of green hashish. Here is a report by colleague Mohamed Bakherdkha: [Video shows four-wheel-drive vehicle crossing the desert and going into drug plantation]

[Begin recording] [Bakherdkha] The scenes which we see did not come by satellite from Colombia, but were taken by our own camera from a place we reached after hard effort and with extreme difficulty, in spite of the vehicles designed specifically for difficult terrain. Perhaps this is the secret of the confidence in growing these substances.

The place is the region of Timimoun in Adrar Province, where plantations of hashish and opium were discovered by the battalion of National Gendarmerie during their normal activities in combatting this grave threat to human mind and body.

In (?Kasr El Jdir El Gherbi) in the municipality of (?Cherouin) 12,364 bushes of hashish were seized, i.e. 260.5 kg, in addition to 13 opium bushes, and 250 grammes of hashish seeds. The owner of this field has not yet been captured by the National Gendarmerie. We found only his miserable family who are as miserable as the place in which they live.

In the region of (?Ougroud) the same battalion was able to arrest the owner of a paradise which he desecrated by 2,240 hashish bushes, i.e. 24.3 kg, in addition to 100 gm of processed hashish and the equipment used for processing this poison. [passage omitted]

In (?Touat) in the municipality of (?Sbaa) and in (?Kasr Taghouzi) and (?Kasr Gallou) in the municipality of Talmine large quantities of hashish bushes and dry unprocessed hashish were seized. What could be the motives which dragged these persons into that market? Was it the great profit, similar to the barons of Medellin, especially as the price of a single gram equals the price of a kilogram of mutton, in addition to the very high demand among the youth? Or are there other motives? The matter should be contemplated carefully because prevention is better than the cure. [end recording]

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Pakistani Minister, Message

NC2602122890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Excerpt] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Khan Bahadur Khan, Pakistani minister of religious affairs and minorities. Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub also attended the meeting.

The Pakistani minister of religious affairs stated after the meeting that he delivered a message to President Mubarak from Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Meets With Saudi Counterpart

NC2702154490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif met today with Saudi Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir, who is currently visiting Cairo. Saudi Ambassador As'ad Abu-al-Nasr also attended the meeting, during which preparations for the conference of information ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization, which is scheduled to be held in Cairo at the end of this year, were discussed. The two ministers agreed to establish a joint committee of the two countries to coordinate and prepare the conference's papers.

They also exchanged views on the uses of the Arab satellite "Arabsat" and plans for the second generation of the Arab satellite, as well as the formation of an engineering working team to study a project to link the two countries' terrestrial networks to exchange television programs. They also discussed a program for bilateral cooperation in the television, radio, and external information sectors and reviewed the decision adopted at the latest session of the Islamic countries' information ministers council. The two ministers emphasized the independence of the Islamic countries' radio union and the ISLAMIC NEWS AGENCY.

Mubarak Receives Message From Saudi King

NC2702185190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques, has sent a message to President Husni Mubarak. Saudi Ambassador in Cairo As'ad Abu-al-Nasr delivered the message during a meeting with President Mubarak today. The message is part of the continuing consultations between King Fahd and his brother President Mubarak to serve the interests of both countries and the Arab and Islamic nation.

Yugoslav President Continues Visit, Holds Talks

Sidqi Details Talks With Mubarak

NC2702124390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1011 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA)—Following an expanded session of talks today chaired by President Husni Mubarak and SFRY Presidency President Janez Drnovsek, Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi stated several issues were discussed, notably bilateral ties, which he described as good. He said the ministers concerned will discuss ways of promoting these ties in the economic, international cooperation, and industrial fields.

The prime minister noted Middle East developments, including the Palestinian issue, the situation between Iraq and Iran, and the Lebanese situation, accounted for a large part of the meeting's discussions.

He added that current East European developments also were discussed. He pointed out the Yugoslav delegation reviewed these developments and gave the Egyptians a comprehensive picture of them, including future expectations.

The prime minister said: The Yugoslav delegation explained the economic and political reforms in the SFRY, particularly regarding the economic production sectors and state projects being developed to provide more freedom of action. He said this is being applied to production projects as well as financial undertakings, such as banking and insurance.

Dr. Sidqi said the Egyptian delegation raised the issue of Soviet Jewish immigration into the occupied territories and added: On this issue, we put forward our view, explained with total clarity by President Mubarak during the Arab Cooperation Council summit meeting in Amman.

The prime minister explained Egypt's stand on this issue is very clear. Egypt is concerned, he said, that Soviet Jewish immigrants should be not settled in the occupied territories because such settlement constitutes a very grave danger. He added Egypt does not accept this, and noted he had referred to this matter yesterday in a statement.

Asked about the Yugoslav stand on this issue, Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said the matter will be discussed today between the concerned officials of both countries.

Trade Minister Meets SFRY's Loncar

NC2702222490 Cairo MENA in English 2212 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, Feb 27 (MENA)—Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr Yusri Mustafa met today with Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar, who is currently on a visit to Egypt among the delegation accompanying Yugoslav President Janez Drnovsek.

Talks focused on means of promoting economic and commercial relations through a bilateral agreement or the tripartite economic cooperation agreement signed between Egypt, India and Yugoslavia, which provides for cooperation in the fields of industry and joint investments.

Both sides also agreed in principle on setting up a joint businessmen's council and a permanent fair for Egyptian products in Yugoslavia to enhance exports to the latter.

Egyptian exports to Yugoslavia reached 50 million dollars in 1989, an increase of 32 million dollars over 1988.

SUNA Director Ends Visit; Cairo Bureau Discussed

NC2602093290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0731 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA)—SUNA Director Muhammad Khawjali Salihin left Cairo for Sudan early today after a four-day visit to Egypt. The SUNA director stated that during the visit he and the MENA officials discussed opening a SUNA bureau in Cairo and establishing a duplex line between Cairo and Khartoum. He also discussed ways to boost cooperation between the two news agencies in exchanging news, pictures, and reportage.

'Abd-al-Majid Reviews Regional Relations

PM2802104290 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 17 Feb 90 p 5

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid by 'Isa al-Rawi and Muhsin Abu-'Ayshah; date, place, not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [AL-MADINAH] A bus was attacked a few days ago and a number of Israelis were killed in the incident. Will this affect the course of the peace process?

['Abd-al-Majid] Some Arab media services are trying to give the bus incident another political dimension. But we regard it as deplorable and distressing, because attacks on innocent people, whoever they are, are intolerable. We hope that the incident will not hamper the peace process. The Egyptian leadership condemns such acts, which result in the death of innocent people.

[AL-MADINAH] In that regard 'Abd-al-Majid cited Egypt's role in the peace process, saying that Egypt is determined to create favorable conditions for the peace process, to which the world public's attention is turned.

With regard to the restoration of diplomatic relations between sisters Egypt and Syria, the Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that it is an important step toward restoring matters between the two states to normal. With regard to the visits between the two leaderships, it is something to be agreed between them according to various factors, and nothing prevents meetings, as long as diplomatic relations between the two countries exist.

Furthermore, his excellency condemned the influx of Jewish emigrants. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that it must be strongly confronted via diplomatic channels and political means. It is absolutely unacceptable, because it affects Palestinian human rights. Jewish and Soviet people's rights should not be protected at the Palestinian people's expense. The Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister revealed that there is an Egyptian move in that regard, as President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent messages to both U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, emphasizing Egypt's position and its rejection of such acts and practices.

Terrorism has become a threat, especially with regard to attacks on diplomats' lives. What is your view of a joint working plan to confront such practices?

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid stressed the right of states which maintain diplomatic relations with other states to defend their citizens and to ensure that their lives are not exposed to danger once they feel that security organs in those states are not playing their role as required, that is, according to the stipulations of international agreements and charters, the latest of which is the Vienna convention on diplomatic privileges and immunities. He pointed out that such attacks are rejected by international conventions and state sovereignty. His excellency condemned the policy of terrorism and stressed that the world as a whole totally repudiates that policy. [passage omitted]

[AL-MADINAH] It has been reported that Israel is involved in a plan to affect Arab water sources. What can be done to deal with this?

['Abd-al-Majid] This subject was raised during the Ethiopian deputy prime minister's and foreign minister's visit to Cairo nearly a week ago. We spoke to him about the issue and he assured us that the Ethiopian Government was not carrying out any projects at the Nile sources, since Ethiopia, the source state, must consult with the mouth states—namely Sudan and Egypt—over such projects. [passage omitted]

[AL-MADINAH] Your Excellency, could you talk to us about the restoration of relations between Egypt and Libya?

['Abd-al-Majid] Relations between Egypt and Libya have been restored and matters have returned to normal. The borders are now open, and the Libyan and Egyptian peoples are bound by ties of friendship, kinship, and cordial relations. We are pleased about this, and I think the Libyans are too. Contacts and visits are continuing.

AL-AHALI Article Comments on Egypt-PLO 'Crisis'

JN2302220890 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic
21 Feb 90 p 3

[Article by Lutfi al-Khawli: "'Crisis' and 'Non-Crisis' in Egyptian-Palestinian Relations"]

[Text] Last week, three fellow writers, who occupy leading positions at their newspapers, surprised us by suddenly opening fire at the PLO and its leadership. In their writings, the three writers—at times—seem to stress their own "personal" dissatisfaction with what they describe as the PLO's weak condemnation of the attack on the Israeli tourists on the Ismailia highway. At other times, however, they make us understand—through clear signs or through journalistic implication—that they in fact represent parties greater than themselves when they mention the name of Egypt in the matter of satisfaction and dissatisfaction with the PLO's position.

Perhaps this has created a wide-ranging national, Arab, and international impression that the articles of my three colleagues are inspired from higher sources. This would mean there is an acute crisis in relations between Egypt and the PLO. This also means that the Israeli tourist bus incident cannot be the cause of this crisis. This is because the PLO—in one or one hundred words, through a weak or a strong statement—condemned this terrorist act and because Israel itself and the United States denied any PLO connection with the incident. What more is required than this? Should Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] send an apology cable to Shamir, who occupies the land, blows up houses, and kills Palestinians on a daily basis?

There is a crisis, therefore, in relations between Cairo and the PLO, of which the articles of the three colleagues are evidence. The crisis, however, is the result of other invisible and deep causes. The analyses and interpretations vary on this. However, the most serious one—and regrettably the one widely disseminated in Arab and foreign newspapers and media and among wide sectors of Egyptian public opinion—is that the crisis is the result of the PLO's resistance to Egyptian pressures to make the PLO accept concessions required by Israel and the United States to solve the political crisis.

I know full well from reliable Palestinian and Egyptian sources that this is incorrect. On the contrary, I can announce here that Egypt played a major part in replacing the principle of Israel's right to object to any member of the Palestinian delegation with the principle of the PLO's indisputable right to appoint its representatives in accordance with qualifications it defines in the dialogue or settlement negotiations.

This was the meaning of my answer to questions posed by a number of Arab and foreign journalists. However, the conclusion that an acute crisis exists, resulting from Egyptian pressures on the PLO, is still prevalent, particularly after the escalation of the campaign launched by Anis Mansur against the PLO and its leadership, in his style known since the national split caused by Camp David. And today Anis Mansur chairs the MAYU newspaper, the mouthpiece of the ruling National Party, whose leader deals with—in his position as the president of the state—the national split on the basis that Palestine, as expressed by the PLO, is an Egyptian, Palestinian, and Arab issue with all its security, political, and economic dimensions. The president also developed this into a joint national and pan-Arab position, supported by all parties and trends despite their differences.

People wonder and say, therefore: Do the traditions of the ruling party in Egypt allow a person who rejects or opposes a policy—while this is within his rights as a party member—to be the chief editor of the party's mouthpiece? If this is not so, can we say that the influence of Anis Mansur, who is well-known for his positions against the PLO and its leaders, exceeds the influence of the party itself?

I understand the chagrin of these writers and I sympathize with them in their anger over Abu-Iyad's [Salah Khalaf] description of them as snakes. We oppose such methods in political dealings and denounce it as we denounce all vilification. We have been suffering from these practices in our press and in our forums for the past 15 years. We take all of our serious issues very lightly.

The three colleagues may be right in answering Abu-Iyad, but they have no right to deny him his Palestinian and Arab record of struggle and his influence, which he has won through his sacrifices and the trust of his comrades and people. They aimed certain mean and mocking accusations at him, which they know are false—or at least lack evidence. Indeed, they would have published such evidence a long time ago if they had any.

Not satisfied with attacking Abu-Iyad, Anis Mansur goes on to mock Abu-'Ammar and other Palestinian leaders "whose hands are covered with diamonds and whose chests are adorned with Cardin and Dior. Their nights are indeed red, the color of blood—although it is wine, not blood—and of other colors that make the mind so ecstatic that it forgets. They have neither resisted nor fought; rather they have stolen the sweat of the noble and honorable young men in the occupied territories."

These are the sublime words used by Mansur in his political analysis.

What would the reaction be to a premeditated provocation like this that injures personal dignity, which is, after all, everything that a struggler has?

Abu Iyad answers harshly. He is at a loss for words. He rushes to analyze what is going on. He makes a mistake because of this provocation with the result that he puts

forth unrealistic and incorrect ideas. He even equates Anis Mansur with the Egyptians and so the snowball becomes bigger, developing from a noncrisis to a crisis between two sides that are in the same boat, in which neither can afford the luxury of differing with the other. All this comes with the intifadah, the Soviet Jews' immigration, the world changes, and the attempt to put the Arab house in order.

We do not ask you to stop criticizing the PLO when you think you must. We merely ask you to observe responsible political decency when you criticize. At least, you should have faith in your word and in Egypt, because together they form a common bond among all of us.

Ghali on Soviet Immigrants, Peace Process, Nile

NC2102115490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0631 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has affirmed that settling Soviet Jews in the occupied Palestinian territories is bound to cause fundamental changes in the population's balance and in the demographic nature of the West Bank and Gaza. It also violates the international commitments stipulated in the Geneva conventions and the UN resolutions concerning the occupied territories' legal status.

In an interview with the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR to be published on 23 February, Dr. Ghali stated that settling these new immigrants in the occupied Arab territories will create a new reality that will negatively affect the chances and alternatives for reaching true and just peace in the Middle East. He stressed this always has been the official Egyptian position since the Camp David accords and the talks on autonomy. He noted this is the same logic behind Egypt's stand rejecting establishing new settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories.

He pointed out the peace treaty with Egypt was supposed to have led to a revolution in Zionist concepts and beliefs and given rise to new ideas and concepts that would be in line with the atmosphere of peace, transcend the sensitivities of the past, and get closer to the constructive spirit demonstrated by the Palestinian moderates' actions. But nothing of the sort happened for the Israelis, he added.

Dr. Ghali called on the Arab states to move swiftly on all levels related to this issue, whether in Israel, the Soviet Union, the United States, or the international community as a whole. He said the Soviet Union must link permitting Soviet Jews to emigrate to the progress made in the peace process.

Dr. Ghali said the United States also is to blame for this problem, adding its decision to limit the influx of Soviet Jews into its territories pressured Moscow into routing the emigrants toward Israel. The United States also knows one way or another, Israel will use the more than $3 billion of U.S aid it receives annually to accommodate and settle the Soviet immigrants, he added. He noted the United States, as a partner in the peace agreements, cannot shirk its commitment to preserve the legal status in the occupied Arab territories and to declare establishing new settlements illegitimate.

Dr. Ghali said it is unlikely East European states will be totally biased in favor of the Israeli views following the changes in these countries triggered by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroyka. He called on the Arab diplomacy to keep up with these changes, and added if all the Arabs manage to build a strong economic entity, they will be able to attract these countries.

The Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs denounced the Israeli tourist bus attack. He emphasized it is a result of several parties harboring tension, annoyance, lack of trust, and despair over existing impediments on the road to peace, as well as the obstacles placed before the ongoing efforts to reach common grounds and start a dialogue that could end the Palestinians' tragedy.

He called on all the international and regional parties to live up to their responsibility toward the Palestinian issue, whose continued stagnation no longer serves anyone's interests. He said the sole obstacle to peace is Israel's failure to keep up with the peace process, as well as Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's insistence on finding one obstacle after another to prevent any serious moves toward peace. He noted Egypt hopes a date soon will be set for the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers to meet with the U.S. secretary of state to prepare for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, which will herald a new start of the peace process in the Middle East.

Regarding reports on Ethiopia establishing dams on the Nile River with Israel's help, Dr. Ghali said these are suspicious and exaggerated reports seeking to provoke a dispute and an uproar without any objectivity. He referred in this respect to statements of officials in both Tel Aviv and Addis Ababa denying these reports. He said the Ethiopian deputy prime minister told him during his recent visit to Cairo that Ethiopia is ready to cooperate with Egypt in the field of water resources, whether on a bilateral, regional, or pan-African level. He added because we are aware of the Nile's importance and its vital political, economic, and security impact on Egyptians now and in the future, Egypt is eager, diplomatically, to give particular emphasis to Africa, and especially to the Nile basin countries on a regional and multilateral level. [passage omitted]

Salah Khalaf's 'Slanders' Further Israel's Aims

JN2102124590 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 19 Feb 90 p 7

[Jalal Duwaydar article: "Those Who Are Ungrateful for Egypt's Generosity and the Dangers of the Immigration Plot"]

[Text] Certain Palestinian leaders are trying to manifest their false courage by unleashing their dirty tongues and opening their big mouths against great and generous Egypt. They are suffering from amnesia because they always show ingratitude for Egypt's favors, which reached the extent of saving their lives.

One such leader is Salah Khalaf, "Abu-Iyad." During President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir's era, Egypt interceded to have him deported from Jordan after he sought refuge in the Egyptian Embassy following the suspect role he played to foment trouble in the fraternal country in 1970.

President 'Abd-al-Nasir's position and influence during the Palestinian crisis in Jordan were instrumental in saving the life of Abu-Iyad, who was to be executed as punishment for what he did to undermine Jordan's security and stability. Egypt, represented by 'Abd-al-Nasir, made such a move despite the slanders and attacks leveled against him by the likes of Abu-Iyad and other Palestinian leaders ungrateful for Egypt's struggle for the Palestinian cause.

The world expected the Palestinian leaders to counsel sanity and work for unifying the Arab position to face the dangers of the Jewish immigration, instead of transforming the Arab homeland into arenas of terrorism and of wars of guns and words. The logical explanation for the aim of this antinational behavior is the Arabs should be engaged in side battles with one another to provide cover for the Jewish immigration and abort all the efforts made to arrange for Israeli recognition of the need to conduct direct negotiations with the Palestinians on their lost rights.

It is surprising Abu-Iyad's suspicious onslaught against Egypt should come when the Israeli political scene is witnessing a new act of the play in which roles are being redistributed to dodge world pressure for promoting efforts for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. This new act is represented by the differences that suddenly have arisen between Shamir and Sharon, who both are hawks and reject Palestinian rights. This dramatic development also has been encouraged by the upbeat feelings among the Israeli ruling circles in the wake of the influx of tens of thousands of Soviet Jews into Israel.

Fabricating battles, whether in the Arab camp or in the Israeli camp, therefore, eventually will aim at undermining the peace process and providing cover for the historic agreement between Washington and Moscow to arrange the Soviet Jewish influx into Israel.

U.S. sources have asserted the main aim of U.S. Secretary of State Baker's visit to Moscow is to facilitate the transfer of emigrants to Israel. The reported Soviet opposition to the direct transfer of the emigrants to Israel because of Arab pressure does not mean the emigrants will not end up eventually in Israel.

The world media already have exposed the deal behind Moscow's submission to U.S. pressure. The Soviets agreed to release the Jews in exchange for acquiring the right of preferential treatment in their commercial dealings with the United States. To ensure the immigrants will head for Israel, the United States enacted a law preventing them from immigrating to the United States, given the U.S. realization most of these immigrants are dreaming of obtaining U.S. rather than Israeli citizenship.

So at this delicate point in the Palestinian cause, the Palestinian leaders, such as Abu-Iyad, unleash a war of slander against Egypt because it refused to allow its territory to become an arena for carrying out terrorism against its security and stability. Regardless of the justifications being forwarded to deny the inherent agreement in making the Arab and Palestinian moves coincide with the Israeli ones, the eventual result will be the service these developments render to further Israel's aims, which are designed against peace and pan-Arab interests.

Libya

Poland's Resumption of Ties With Israel Regretted

LD2702151190 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation this morning summoned the ambassador of the Republic of Poland accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah. The ambassador was informed of the deep regret of the Great Jamahiriyah over Poland's resumption of political relations with the Zionist entity at the time when this entity is facing an increasing international isolation. This is as a result of its bestial and oppressive practices against the tempestuous popular revolution led by the generation of anger through its people's committees in occupied Arab Palestine, and as a result of the Zionist entity's denial of the firm national rights of the Arab Palestinian people to self-determination and the building of its independent state.

The Polish ambassador was informed that the step taken by his government will have negative consequences on Libyan-Polish relations in particular and on the Arab-Polish relations in general.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Bulgarian Special Envoy

LD2702131690 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received today Philip Ichikov, deputy foreign minister and special envoy of President Petur Mladenov, chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria. Ichikov handed over a written message from President Mladenov. The audience was attended by the ambassador of Bulgaria to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Romanian Trade Minister

LD2702154990 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution [Al-Qadhdhafi] today received Alexandru Margaritescu, the minister of foreign trade of Romania and special envoy of President Ion Iliescu, chairman of the Provisional Council of National Unity in Romania. The envoy handed the brother leader a written message from President Iliescu. The audience was attended by the Romanian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Mauritania

Chairman Receives UN Special Representative

LD2702032590 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the CMSN [Military Committee for National Salvation] and head of state, today received Mr. Johannes Manz, UN special representative to the Western Sahara and special envoy of Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar. [passage omitted]

After the meeting, Mr. Manz stated to the national press that he was appointed by Perez de Cuellar as special representative to the Western Sahara, and that this is the first time he has visited the region and discussed the matter with all the concerned parties. He said the UN secretary general delegated him to deliver a message to the chairman of the CMSN and head of state, and that he discussed the problem with the president.

First Private Bank Established in Nouakchott

AB2602162090 Paris AFP in French 1227 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Nouakchott, 26 Feb (AFP)—The Constituent Assembly of the National Bank of Mauritania (BNM), the first Mauritanian private partnership banking institution, began operation today in Nouakchott. The establishment of this bank, which is the result of a merger between the Mauritanian Banking Corporation and the International Bank of Mauritania (formerly the International Bank of West Africa—BIAO), constitutes a step toward the privatization of Mauritania's banking system, according to experts. It is part of a reform program for the state-dominated banking sector and is in line with the decision made last year by the Mauritanian Government to withdraw gradually from the sector and allow banks to specialize.

Before setting up the BNM, the government first wiped out the merging banks' deficit—which amounted to 4.5 million ouguiyas (roughly 300 million French francs [Fr])—and injected 500 million ouguiyas (Fr33 million) as equity capital into the new institution. Thirty percent of this capital was transferred in the form of shares to Mauritanian private sector operators, with 30 to 40 percent going to foreign banks, according to official sources.

The first BNM General Assembly, (?which will endorse these arrangements), should adopt an action plan which will henceforth channel the bulk of the credits into the agricultural and service sectors, while earmarking a smaller proportion for fishing, the main beneficiary of such credits so far, the source added.

Morocco

Laraki Receives Qatari Commerce Minister

LD2702034190 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Dr. Azzedine Laraki, this evening received at his office Mr. Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Hamad Al Thani, Qatari minister of commerce and economy, who is currently paying an official visit to Morocco.

They discussed the fraternal relations between Morocco and Qatar, economic cooperation between the two fraternal countries, and the possibilities of expanding cooperation, especially in the field of investment, in light of the new atmosphere in Morocco stemming from the august royal instructions to the prime minister in this field. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Hamad Al Thani, Qatari minister of commerce and economy, will sign a trade agreement with his Moroccan opposite number during this visit. [passage omitted]

Sudan

SPLA, Ummah Party Joint Communique Issued

EA2402213190 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Joint Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLM/SPLA)-Ummah Party communique issued on 22 February]

[Text] After a careful study of the charter and program of the National Democratic Alliance, NDA, signed on 31st October 1989 by the confederation of trade union representatives of the [word indistinct] forces and political parties, the SPLM/SPLA has agreed to the principles of the charter with the reservation that it has the right to revise and amend the details of the charter and program which were worked out in its absence in the meeting of the signatories to the charter.

Further to its endorsement of the charter of the NDA, the SPLM/SPLA and Ummah Party held a series of lengthy meetings, after which both of them reached an

agreement on the basic challenges and problems facing our beloved country. The essence of this agreement is the establishment of permanent peace, stability and national unity, under a multiparty democratic system, which will endeavor to realize that precious goal of our toiling masses in political, economic, and social fields. To achieve this objective, the two parties agreed to tirelessly work together with fellow brothers in the NDA to accelerate the removal of the military dictatorship of the Muslim Brothers in Khartoum, the holding of constitutional conference, and establishment of the democratic government with active participation of all members of NDA.

The great history of the Sudan has proved to us that the dictatorship has failed our people more than enough, and it is time now for the real exercise of democracy. In the light of deep understanding and based on that agreement, the Ummah Party and SPLM/SPLA called on the Sudanese Armed Forces to disassociate themselves from the NIF [National Islamic Front] and its so-called Council of National Salvation and to stop them from using the Sudanese national army to implement by force their malicious, evil, and obsolete ideas, which can only lead to the disintegration of the country.

We urge our brothers in the Armed Forces that there is no justification for the bloodshed and continued war after agreement of all the Sudanese popular forces [word indistinct] to bring to an end the war and its sufferings, and establish a democratic system in the Sudan. It is only the NIF and its military council that stands against the unanimous agreement of the NDA on peace, stability, and national unity. We therefore call on the Armed Forces to rebel against the Muslim Brothers' military dictatorship and to side with the Sudanese masses represented in the NDA.

The Ummah Party in compliance with the agreement calls on all the tribal militia in Kurdufan, Darfur, and other parts of the country to immediately halt hostilities against the SPLA, and turn their guns against the common enemy. The SPLM/SPLA on his part, hereby, orders its field commanders to cease hostilities against these militias and to cooperate with the abovementioned tribal militias to fight the common enemy. The SPLM/SPLA has also ordered its supporters in the army to do their part in the implementation of this agreement.

The two parties hereby call for a meeting of the general assembly of the NDA as soon as possible so as to work out the details of the charter that will incorporate the views of the SPLM/SPLA and to discuss and agree on the [words indistinct] to be taken in order to put its provisions into effect.

In conclusion, we salute the struggle of the Sudanese people against the dictatorship of Muslim Brothers. We also salute all the political detainees. Long live the unity of the Sudanese people.

The communique was signed by:

Sayyid Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi, member of Politburo and representative of Ummah Party
Commander Lual Ding Wol, alternate member of SPLM/SPLA Political-Military High Command and representative of SPLM/SPLA

Further Reportage on Ethiopian Refugee Situation

International Aid 'Insufficient'

EA2402213590 Khartoum SUNA in French 0900 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Feb (SUNA)—Sudan has reiterated its call to the international community to increase its aid for the refugees who have been continuously entering the country.

In a statement to the daily AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH on Saturday [24 February], Brigadier 'Abd-al-Rahman Sirr al-Khatim, the commissioner for refugees, indicated that the eastern border of the country was still witnessing the crossing of Ethiopian refugees, while the international aid intended for them was insufficient. He also stressed that the intensified military operations increased the possibility of a further influx.

Over 20,000 Refugees Arrive

AB2702085690 Khartoum SUNA in English 1615 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Feb, (SUNA)—The number of the Ethiopian refugees who crossed the eastern borders during the past few days has reached 21,850, refugees commissioner Brigadier 'Abd-al-Rahman Sirr al-Khatim announced.

He said in a press statement that huge numbers of refugees are due to enter Sudan because of the drought in northern Ethiopia. He pointed out that the ongoing battles in Ethiopia will have a negative effects on the delivery of relief supplies for the affected people in their homeland. He reaffirmed Sudan's readiness to help in transporting relief stuffs through its territories.

'Displaced People' Return to Bahr al-Ghazal

EA2702184090 Khartoum SUNA in English 0914 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Feb (SUNA)—A group of 232 of the displaced people who were personally willing to return to their original regions has left here yesterday on their way to Bahr al-Ghazal region.

The displaced commissioner, Muhammad al-Hasan Awad al-Karim, who waved the displaced off at Khartoum railway station, said this first group is heading for Ad Du'ayn, Nyala, Malwal and Atai. They were being equipped with agricultural tools, seeds and fertilisers for the coming agricultural season.

Another group of about 300 of the displaced will leave here next week while a third one is expected to depart in

March, the commissioner said, adding that the repatriation was organised by the displaced commission in collaboration with the (?chiefs) of the displaced here.

Tunisia

'Fundamentalist Students' Clash With Police

LD2702233990 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Incidents inside Tunis University witnessed serious developments today following continuous strikes by students and their refusal to take their exams. This situation led to the intervention of the police. Here is our correspondent Mabrouki with more details.

[Mabrouki] In Tunis, an official from the students union stated that 15 students were injured during the intervention by the police who were trying to disperse students at Tunis University. A spokesman from the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education indicated that the police intervened because Islamic students were trying to disrupt exams at the law school. However, the spokesman did not confirm if there were any injuries among the students.

This incident is considered one of the most violent between fundamentalist students and the security forces at Tunis University since the beginning of the university academic year. These incidents were characterized recently by a wave of strikes and sit-ins by students.

The secretary general of the Tunisian Union of Tunisian Students indicated during a news conference that four students sustained broken limbs. They were taken to a hospital in Tunis, one of them in critical condition. He stated that the majority of students have refused to take their exams as long as their colleagues are being detained.

The above-mentioned union appealed today to the Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to intervene for the release of the detained students or those who were drafted into the Army who, according to the same source from the Tunisian students union, total more than 900 students.

Tunisian authorities, on the other hand, stated that the number of these detainees or recruits is only 583 students. It is worth noting that leaders of the student union stressed that the students' strike will continue until the security forces withdraw from the university, students are freed, and serious negotiations are started.

In retaliation to the students' movement, the authorities reportedly have threatened to stop student grants and refuse the students campus accomodation if they continue their strike. According to REUTERS, the Tunisian Government considers the current student movement to be manipulated by the illegal Islamic al-Nahdah movement in an attempt to flex its muscles and draw neutral students into a conflict with the authorities.

Islamic Movement Spokesman Arrested

LD2602184890 Paris International Service in French 1800 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Excerpt] The spokesman of the Tunisian Islamic Movement al-Nahdah, which means revival, has been arrested. It was early this morning that policemen arrested Ali Laaridh at his home.

The authorities accuse the Islamic leader of making statements hostile to the government following the recent events in the Tunisian universities. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Released 27 Feb

LD2702190190 Paris International Service in French 1800 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] The spokesman of the Tunisian Islamic Movement al-Nahdah has been released. Ali Laaridh was arrested yesterday following inopportune statements on the disturbances that hit Tunisian universities recently.

Ben Ali Receives Message From Al-Qadhdhafi

LD2702154190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received a message from Colonel Mua'mmar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, which was conveyed to him by the general representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in Tunis, 'Abd-al-Atti al-'Ubaydi, this morning at the Republican Palace in Carthage, in the presence of Mohamed Medjali, the presidential secretary general.

'Abd-al-Atti al-'Ubaydi said that the message concerned bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries and issues of current concern to the Arab nation, particularly the Palestine issue and the extensive exodus to occupied Palestine. He said: I found that the president was very interested in these issues and was concerned about them.

Gas Supply Agreement Signed With Yugoslav Company

LD2702221890 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Excerpt] An agreement between the Tunisian Government and a Yugoslav corporation was signed today on the basis of which Algerian natural gas will be transported to Yugoslavia via Tunisian territory. Habib Lazrag, secretary of state responsible for energy and mines at the Ministry of National Economy, will tell us about the agreement:

[Lazrag] On the basis of this agreement, 600 million cubic meters of gas will be transported annually. The transportation will commence two years from now; that is, after the Italian gas network has been linked with the Yugoslav network. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

President Reiterates Conditions for Referendum

LD2602084190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz, reiterated yesterday the conditions which should be met before the referendum for self-determination in the Western Sahara.

In a speech made yesterday at the opening of a general assembly of Saharan women, the Saharan president indicated that the conditions for the referendum are the withdrawal of the Moroccan forces, administration, and settlers; the release of all the Saharan detainees; and the administration of the Western Sahara during the transitional period by the United Nations and the OAU.

The Saharan president said prior to his meeting today with Perez de Cuellar's representative that any conception other than the referendum will contradict the UN resolutions, and will hamper the solution of this problem. He also criticized Morocco's stubborness, and hailed Algeria's stand and its firm support for the Saharan people's struggle.

Bahrain

King Husayn Arrives on Official Visit 27 Feb

JN2702113190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1018 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Manama, 27 Feb (WAKH)—Jordan's monarch King Husayn arrived in Manama today from Kuwait on an official visit to Bahrain within the framework of a tour of a number of the region's states. [passage omitted]

Holds Talks With Amir

JN2702131490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1220 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Manama, 27 Feb (WAKH)—An official session of talks was conducted in Manama today between the Bahraini side, led by Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, and the Jordanian side, led by King Husayn. [passage omitted]

During the session the two sides discussed developments in the Gulf and Arab arenas, the Middle East issue, the Palestinian intifadah, the situation in Lebanon, means to clear the Arab atmosphere, and bilateral relations.

'Official Source' Cited on Talks

JN2702174690 Manama WAKH in English 1640 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Manama, Feb 27 (GNA)—An official source said that the two hour round of talks between H.H. [His Highness] the Amir Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah and HM [His Majesty] King Husayn of Jordan reviewed bilateral relations and Arab issues.

The source told GNA that HM King Husayn briefed H.H. the amir on his recent activities and on subjects pertaining to the development of the Palestinian issue, the Palestinian uprising and efforts exerted to help restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, the challenges facing the Palestinian question namely the exodus of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab territories and actions to be taken to stop it.

The Jordanian monarch also briefed H.H. the amir on the positive outcome of the Arab Cooperation Council summit held recently in Amman, he added.

The two leaders also discussed a number of current Arab and international issues, and emphasised on Arab solidarity as a means to confront challenge facing the Arab nation.

The source noted the two leaders reviewed the current situation in the Gulf region, Iraqi-Iranian dispute and ways of achieving a comprehensive peace settlement between the two countries.

He described the talks between the two leaders as "friendly" and comes within the framework of continuous meetings between the two countries on consultations and exchanging viewpoints pertaining issue of concern to the Arab world.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Receives Libyan Envoy, Message

LD2602215190 Tripoli JANA in English 1702 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Kuwait, al-Nawwar [February] 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad a foreign minister of Kuwait received today the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brother Hood Bureau in Kuwait who conveyed to him a message from the leader of the revolution to Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah the emir of the State of Kuwait.

Shaykh Sabah expressed during his reception of the bureau's secretary Kuwait's extreme appreciation and regards to the nationalist initiatives launched by the leader of the revolution and Great Jamahiriyah's efforts to unify the Arab nation.

Hizballah Warns Against Violation of Human Rights

NC2502125290 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] The Hizballah in Kuwait has warned the rulers there against violating the human rights of Kuwaiti Muslims. In a statement it released, Hizballah said that in recent months the Kuwaiti authorities have detained a group of Kuwaiti Shiites along with a number of Shiite religious figures. The fate of these detainees is not known. The statement underlined that the Shiites were detained for flimsy reasons and in cooperation with the Saudi regime. Hizballah denounced these inhuman actions, criticized the so-called human rights organizations, and called on world public opinion, particularly Muslims, to pressure the Kuwaiti Government to settle the issue of the detained Muslims and to disclose their fate.

Oman

State Minister Returns From Iranian Visit

JN2402070390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Muscat, 23 Feb (WAKH)—Yusuf Ibn-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Muscat tonight following an official visit to Iran which lasted several days. During the visit, Ibn-'Alawi conducted talks with Iranian officials on bilateral relations and issues of common concern.

PDRY

Supreme People's Council Meets 25 Feb

EA2602074690 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] The 12th session of the Supreme People's Council began this morning at Palestine Hall chaired by Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council.

At the beginning of the session the brother chairman of the Presidium presented the body's political report, which reviewed the most prominent economic, political, and social developments in the Yemeni arena, as well as the Arab and international arenas and our country's position on them.

The report referred to the importance of this session, considering it was being conducted in the light of the positive situation and the popular welcome given to the important outcome of the 19th session of the Central Committee of the Yemen Socialist Party, which confirmed the resolutions of the Central Committee's 18th extraordinary session. The Central Committee's resolutions responded to and embodied the hopes and aspirations of the masses of our people for unity, democracy, and reform.

[Word indistinct] the holding of the reins of initiative and development according to the requirements of the age and in harmony with the party's historic role in the Yemeni revolutionary operations and their horizons of unity.

Regarding the national issue, the report clearly stated the Yemeni leadership was moving towards unity and the establishment of one Yemen. The report confirmed there would be no retreat, even by one inch from this sublime and honorable goal.

It reiterated the determination to achieve our unshakable, giant national unity, which would not be subdued and could not be shaken or diverted by any power.

When the council discussed the report, a number of deputies asked the draft constitution for the unity state be presented quickly for discussion and approval by the two legislatures of the two parts of the homeland. Some deputies criticized the fact constituent meetings of the local people's councils had not been conducted, despite the fact much time had passed since they were elected. The discussion showed the importance of strengthening the supervisory role of the people's council and the need to speed up the formation of a society for the veterans of the liberation war.

The deputies proposed in their discussion there should be no insistence [word indistinct] on reelection, and that election days for the local people's councils should be reduced from three days to one. They stressed the need to increase the number of candidates and female candidates in the elections.

Some deputies called for forming specialized committees in the agricultural field and setting up timetables for them for implementing their work, but considering the available resources.

The discussion called for collection of income tax imposed by the law on workers in proportion to the value of their work, and the raising of social security following death.

A number of deputies stressed the need for tackling strikes in places of work and production. The responsible quarters should be made to account for neglecting workers' issues.

The people's deputies expressed their concern over the immigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab territories. They stressed the need to issue an appeal from the council to the world's parliaments calling on them to adopt a positive position regarding this issue.

This evening the council will continue its proceedings to complete its discussion of the political report and to consider a draft law on house ownership for the purpose of sale and rent, and on regulating the relationship between the landlord and tenant. The council also will consider a draft law amending the Civil Law 8/1988.

North Korean Delegation Holds Cooperation Talks

EA2602121490 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] This morning the official talks between the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] and Democratic Korea began at the premises of the Supreme People's Council. The talks were chaired on the Yemeni side by Brother Muhammad Ba-Dinar, secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and on the Korean side by Comrade Yi Chong-ok, member of the Korean Workers' Party and vice president of the [Democratic People's] Republic of Korea.

At the beginning of the talks, Brother Ba-Dinar welcomed the DPRK vice-president and his delegation, wishing them a good stay in our country. He expressed his confidence the visit would contribute to achieving the desired goals and would strengthen the relations of cooperation between the two friendly countries in all fields.

Ba-Dinar expressed high appreciation for the relations of cooperation between the two parties, governments, and peoples, and the position of the Korean people in support of our country. He pointed out our Yemeni people had been following with great interest the awakening achieved by Korea and its role in international fields in support of the causes of international security and peace.

Comrade Yi Chong-ok made a short speech in which he expressed his great satisfaction over [words indistinct]

cooperation between the Yemeni Socialist Party and the Korean Workers Party. He pointed out that the two friendly countries were linked by a friendship and cooperation treaty in view of the deep relations between them.

He expressed DPRK support for the efforts being made by the Yemeni people to achieve their unity and happiness. He praised the principled stands of the Yemeni party, government, and people in support of the DPRK [words indistinct] for unification of the two parts of Korea.

ADEN NEWS AGENCY has learned a committee will be formed under the chairmanship of the acting foreign minister in Democratic Yemen and the Korean vice president to discuss the various aspects of economic and technical cooperation between the two countries and to evaluate them during the past period. The final round of talks is scheduled for next Wednesday.

Relations Established With Iceland, Ireland

EA2202192690 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers today concluded its regular meeting, which had begun [words indistinct] under the chairmanship of Brother Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers. In its final session, the council completed discussion on issues in its agenda. The secretaries general and members of the General Secretariat of the General Federation of Trade Unions of the Republic participated in the discussion. The issues included a review of the resolutions of the 19th ordinary session of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee, the council's resolutions concerning an increase in wages and salaries, preparation of a wage structure for administrative officers, and finalization of wage structures for unions. [passage omitted]

The council also approved establishment of diplomatic relations between our country and Ireland and Iceland. It adopted a number of other decisions on issues it examined.

Qatar

Tunisian Foreign Minister Meets Counterpart

JN2402175790 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Doha, Feb 24 (GNA)—Qatari Foreign Minister 'Abdallah Ibn-Khalifah al-'Atiyyah met here today with Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdelhamid Escheikh, currently visiting Doha. The meeting discussed means of promoting relations between the State of Qatar and Tunisia in various fields.

King Husayn of Jordan Arrives in Doha 27 Feb

JN2702174890 Manama WAKH in English 1650 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Doha, Feb 27 (GNA)—The Emir of Qatar H.H. [His Highness] Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani led well-wishers to welcome King Husayn of Jordan who arrived here this afternoon from Manama for a two-day working visit to Qatar in the context of a Gulf tour.

The Jordanian monarch was also greeted on arrival by the Heir Apparent and Defence Minister H.H. Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Khalifah Al Thani, their excellencies the shaykhs and ministers, undersecretaries for the ministries and senior government officials.

King Husayn is accompanied by a high ranking delegation comprising Premier Mudar Badran, Chief of the Royal Court Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Special Adviser 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and a number of senior officials.

Meets With Amir

JN2802100590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Doha, 28 Feb (WAKH)—An official round of talks were conducted here today between the Qatari side, led by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani and the Jordanian side, led by King Husayn, who currently is on a visit to Doha. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

YAR President Makes Departure Statement

LD2502200190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Hafr al-Batin, 25 Feb (SPA)—Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has expressed his happiness at visiting the Kingdom and with his meeting with King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques.

In a statement to SPA and the accompanying Yemeni news media, he said: I have briefed my brother, King Fahd, about the results of our visit to the United States and France, and also about the results and decisions of the Arab Cooperation Council. I also briefed him on the unionist steps between the two parts of Yemen, which will be announced, God willing, by the end of 1990.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih also said they discussed bilateral relations, and that viewpoints were completely similar. [passage omitted]

Fahd Issues Statement

LD2502220390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Exxcerpts] Hafr al-Batin 25 Feb (SPA)—King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, has broached the strength of relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR].

In statements to the Yemeni news media accompanying President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and to SPA after their meeting in Hafr al-Batin on Sunday, King Fahd said: Saudi-YAR relations have been absolutely prominent since President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih took over the leadership of the YAR. He added: We realize it is quite common to see attempts at causing trouble everywhere in the world, but this does not apply to myself, to President Salih, or to the two governments or the two friendly peoples.

The king expressed his satisfaction with the visit to this region by his brother, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, saying: We have discussed several matters of interest to the two countries and to the two parts of Yemen, and I personally, and the Saudi Government and people bless the unity that actually is in the interests of one homeland. The custodian of the two holy mosques affirmed Saudi Arabia always has supported Yemeni unity, particularly when South Yemeni and North Yemeni ministers visited the Kingdom. He said: We now support this unity more and more, because it benefits Islam, Muslims, and the two countries. It also benefits Saudi Arabia, and this is why we back it absolutely and without any restrictions. [passage omitted]

Answering a question on the priorities the custodian of the two holy mosques sees fit to lay down for a strategy to face up to the Zionists, the king answered: We all realize the Arab-Israeli situation is not new, and that it has been there for tens of years. On the other hand, he said, everyone understands the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. It is not we, the Arab states, that say this, but it is said by all those who realize this right of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland, determine their own future, and what they want.

The custodian of the two holy mosques said Saudi Arabia was fully aware the leadership of the Palestinian state, with the presidency of Mr. Yasir 'Arafat and his collegues, are the best of men, who realize the interests of the Arab nation at large. He expressed his hope to see the state of Palestine established in Palestine, adding: This is not far off, because all the world supports this, and we wish success for the Palestinian people and their leadership.

Asked about ways of facing up to the challenges before the Arab nation, especially the immigation of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine, he said the leaders of the Arab nation saw peace as the foundation, adding: But such a peace must not be at the expense of the Palestinian people. This right is clear, and it is an important one to us.

As for the immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine, the king said: This matter must be studied by the leaders of the Arab nation in ways that put matters in their correct context. He went on to say: We believe the Soviet Union wants its relations with the Arab nation to be very good, and we hope that understanding will be the foundation in matters like these.

To a question on the Lebanese crisis, given that the king is a member of the Arab Higher Tripartite Committee in charge of resolving this crisis, the king said: In fact, the task of the Tripartite Committee is a beneficial one. The committee was charged with a specific mission by the Casablanca Arab Summit Conference. [passage omitted]

The custodian of the two holy mosques expressed his regret at the fierce fighting now taking place in East Beirut, and expressed his hope it will stop, and that peace, stability, and understanding will prevail in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

The king welcomed the Arab Cooperation Council, the Arab Maghreb Union, and the Gulf Cooperation Council, which, he said, work for the good of the Arab nation. They are not built on any biased foundation, he said; quite the contrary, they proceed on the same line to shoulder their duties to the Arab peoples.

The king concluded by saying: Clearly, there is a permanent understanding between these three groups; they are directed against no one, but they are for the good of the Arab nation at large.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Returns From Jordan, Saudi Arabia

JN2502193890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, returned this evening, with God's care and protection, to the homeland after leading our country's delegation to the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] summit, held in the Jordanian capital, Amman. He also paid a short visit of several hours to fraternal Saudi Arabia, where he met with his brother, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques.

The two leaders conducted talks in which they discussed d. velopments in Arab affairs and the issues of interest to our Arab and Islamic nations. They also discussed the

brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries and means of improving them.

The brother leader and president briefed his brother King Fahd on the outcome of the ACC summit, which concluded yesterday in Amman. He also briefed him on the outcome of his visits to the United States and France and on developments in Yemen related to restoring the unity of the Yemeni homeland. He said Yemeni unity will contribute to the well-being and progress of Arab and Islamic nations, and will strengthen their ability to face the challenges imposed on them by their enemies. He also said Yemeni unity will constitute an important factor in strengthening security, stability, and peace in the region.

For his part, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia voiced his country's blessing of, and support for, the unity of the Yemeni homeland. He stated Yemeni unity fulfills Arab and Islamic nations' aspirations and hopes and constitutes a step toward the unity and strength of Arab and Islamic nations.

The two leaders stressed their mutual interest in strengthening the distinguished, brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries, in improving them on behalf of the Yemeni and Saudi peoples, and in upholding the supreme interests of the Arab nation to (?deter) all attempts to harm them.

The brother leader and president left King Khalid Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Military Cantonment in Hafar al-Batin in Saudi Arabia's northern region at 1630 today. He was accorded an official sendoff headed by King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. [passage omitted]

The brother leader and president had arrived at King Khalid Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Military Cantonment in Hafar al-Batin at 1315 today on an official visit to Saudi Arabia at the invitation of his brother, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. He was accorded a grand reception headed by King Fahd-Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Army Chief of Staff Arrives 24 Feb

JN2402174490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Brother Staff General Nizar 'Abd-al-Karim Faysal al-Khadraji, Iraqi Army chief of staff, arrived in Sanaa today on a visit lasting several days.

In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, the Iraqi official said he was happy to visit our country at the invitation of the Armed Forces General Staff. He pointed out this visit is an expression of the strong relations between the two fraternal peoples and countries. It seeks to coordinate these relations.

Staff Brigadier Engineer 'Abdallah Hasan al-Bashiri, chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces and Standing Committee member; ranking Armed Forces officers; and Iraqi Ambassador in Sanaa 'Abd-Husayn al-Rifa'i received him on arrival.

Visits Ta'izz 27 Feb

JN2702202390 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Brother Staff Brigadier Engineer 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of the General Staff and Standing Committee member, and brother Staff General Nizar 'Abd-al-Karim al-Khadraji, Iraqi Army chief of staff, and the accompanying military delegation, have visited Ta'izz Governorate. Brother Muhsin al-Yusufi, Ta'izz governor, and a number of Armed Forces officers received him. Afterward, they visited some camps and witnessed part of the daily exercises.

Consultative Council Approves Budgets, Addenda

JN2702204590 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Excerpt] The Consultative Council conducted an extraordinary session today under the chairmanship of brother 'Abd-al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi, council speaker and Standing Committee member. The council approved the draft state budget law, the budgets of the public and mixed sectors, and the addenda to these budgets. The council also approved regulations on implementing the budgets and their financial statements for 1990. [passage omitted]

Ramadan Discusses 'Negative' Iranian Stand

JN2702180890 Baghdad INA in English 1725 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 27, INA—Meetings of the Arab workers festival for solidarity with the peace initiative announced by President Saddam Husayn on January 5 commenced here today under the motto "Arab Workers—One Attitude for Consolidating Victory and Peace." The festival lasts two days.

President Saddam Husayn deputized Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) member, to attend inauguration of the festival.

Representative of the president, Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan gave an address before the participants at the outset of which he conveyed greetings of President Saddam Husayn.

In his address, Mr. Ramadan has pointed out that this festival is being held in solidarity with the Iraqi peace initiative released by President Saddam Husayn at the 69th anniversary of founding the Iraqi Army and which enjoyed and still enjoying large-scale Arab and international support at the time when the forces of good and peace in the world have condemned the Iranian unjustifiable stubbornness.

He added that the initiative clearly and genuinely Iraq's true belief and desire in establishing just and comprehensive peace. [sentence as received] It confirmed Iraq's pursuit and view of the relations that should be established between nations in general and the neighbourly in particular.

He went on saying that the initiative was an added confirmation of our peaceful policy of which we expressed since the beginning of the Iranian aggression on our country on more than one occasion and after the ceasefire.

The first deputy premier affirmed that that stance was because we believed, and are still believing strongly that the war is a forced state on the road of life and defence of rights and sovereignty when the other ways failed and that peace is the law of life and the law of construction, prosperity and advancement.

Mr Ramadan said, "But against all these sincere, clear-cut and detailed initiatives, the Iranian regime, governed by the complex of sweeping setback and defeat and its abortive aggression on our country, is still following the road prevarication and adhering to its rejected policy based on the style of selectivity by which it aims at keeping the conditions as they are. The Iranian regime imagines that by this stance he could get some gains and advantages by political ways after its failure in achieving them through its eight-year military aggression."

He said further "the Iranian regime feigns to be forgetting that Iraq will never squander its legitimate rights for which it defended and shed dear bloods a price for them." [sentence as received]

Mr. Ramadan also confirmed that attitude of the Iranian regime towards peace was and is still negative. It kept on avoiding all peaceful initiatives and the situation remained as it were after its retreat from the direct negotiations stipulated in August 8, 1988 agreement.

The Iranian regime has been adopting the style of rejection, selection and laying obstacles before any effort and any initiative aimed at ending the state of no peace, no war in order to confirm its continuity of its aggressive and non-peaceful policy.

Mr. Ramadan added that the peace initiative and the humane proposals which it had contained, namely, immediate exchange of war prisoners, organizing visits to them by their families, providing opportunity for the two countries' peoples to exchange religious visits and opening air spaces, was another evidence of President Saddam Husayn's good intentions for creating new atmospheres for direct negotiations.

Mr Ramadan went on saying that the initiative was a product of stabilized believe in the necessity of maintaining the sincere endeavour to achieve peace and to light another torch in Iraq's peaceful march, which the Iranian regime was trying to extinguish it by refusing it and non-cooperation with any step leading to consolidate ceasefire and put an end to all sequels of the war.

Mr. Ramadan also said that in Palestine the Palestinian uprising had entered its 27th month and standing strongly and spreading widely in the face of severity of the Zionist oppression.

Our people in the occupied land are now drawing with their blood pictures of heroism and bravery against which the Zionist military machine is unable to defeat. The uprising is increasing strongly as series of the Zionist conspiracy are expanding in order to stabilize the Zionist entity expansionists ambitions and the policy of colonization and threatening the Arab national security by waves of the organized Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and the East European States.

'Aziz Opens Seminar on Arab Pluralism, Democracy

JN2702161090 Baghdad INA in English 1530 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 27, INA—Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz has stressed that the democracy and party pluralism are major topics in Arab and world political life.

In an opening address to a seminar on democracy and party pluralism in the Arab world, organized by the Arab society for political sciences, Mr. 'Aziz stated that the affair was under current discussion and study in Iraq within President Saddam Husayn's announcement of a firm approach towards new and developed formulation of the political structures and practices in the country.

He expressed confidence that the seminar would enrich present debates on this subject, whether in Iraq or in the other Arab countries. The Iraqi deputy premier and foreign minister underlined impossibility, from an objective point of view, to tackle democracy and multi-party system in isolation from reality of economic, social and cultural factors in all countries, for they constitute the base on which political structures and practices unite.

Stemming from this visualization, Mr. 'Aziz affirmed, Iraq views himself, after his decisive success in deterring the Iranian aggression, in a position that objectively signals the necessity of a fresh formulation to the political structures and practices in the country. Other Arab countries are now facing similar situation, he said.

He added that endeavouring to earlier form the political structures and practices in concert with the age represented a historic initiative. Those who do not take this initiative will be vis-a-vis a crisis, Mr. 'Aziz stressed, pointing that what is taking place in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and other world countries indicates that they fell short of taking the initiative.

The conferees discussed in their morning today session a bundle of topics related to pluralism, democracy, and political and democratic structure in the Arab countries.

Saddam Receives Envoy of Bulgarian President

JN2802100990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Bulgarian State Council Chairman Petur Mladenov dealing with relations between the two friendly countries.

Khristofor Sitov, special adviser to the prime minister [name, title as received] and the Bulgarian president's envoy to the president, delivered the message when the latter received him here today.

Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih and the Bulgarian ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Peres Views Peace Process, Unity Government

TA2702164990 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Dan Shilon at the studio in Tel Aviv on the "Erev Hadash" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Shilon] Good evening, Mr. Peres.
[Peres] Good evening.

[Shilon] So, are you interested in rotation in the government?
[Peres] No. This is not the issue. I do not wish to address this as a central issue right now. Incidentally, let there be no mistake. I think we deserve the rotation, but at this moment the issue on the agenda is the peace process. I heard Minister Mordekhay Gur's proposal, which I had not known of beforehand....

[Shilon, interrupting] He had not coordinated it with you?
[Peres] No, no. I just heard it on the radio. We also have not conducted any consultations. I know at this time the central issue is the peace process.

[Shilon] Yes, but the peace process has various issues, and people who must guide and help implement it, and, at least judging from your comments and from the positions you express, you have stopped believing the government in its current composition can bring the peace process to fruition.
[Peres] The truth is, I have very strong reservations on this subject....

[Shilon, interrupting] In other words, you are emphasizing the underlining premise behind the question I just asked you?
[Peres] Yes, the matter has gone on for a very long time. I cannot see what we have gained during this time. Perhaps we managed to lead the Likud along a little more, but now it is time for a decision. The picture is very clear, and we have to say yes or no. There is no point in delaying things—a decision must be made. [passage omitted]

[Shilon] Do you and Yitzhaq Rabin see entirely eye to eye regarding these doubts you have expressed about the government's ability to further the peace process?
[Peres] Yitzhaq Rabin and myself are members of a party. This is not a cooperative made up of two people which....

[Shilon, interrupting] Yes, but you know very well if Rabin opposes it, you will face difficulty in gaining approval for....
[Peres] He has difficulties and I have difficulties, but we have overcome them and reached decisions and resolutions for the past five years, the movement has remained united, and we have not encountered the things some other parties have faced. Listen, one must also learn to control one's desires and tendencies. If you look back at the last year with all its attendant difficulties, I do not for one moment regret the patience and self-control I showed. We followed one path to its end, and now it is the time for a decision. I have no doubt the Labor Party will take a decisive resolution—it already has done so—and I have no doubt all its members will accept the decision. [passage omitted]

[Shilon] In two weeks, not three, will we find ourselves in a situation in which the national unity government has come to the end of the road?
[Peres] I would not like to guess. I am interested in.... [changes thought] Look, there are systematic attempts to move us from the route we have chosen to take. This route is peace, and not government. We all are of one mind that if the peace route remains viable, the government will continue. If the peace process is cut short, it will spell the end of the government. The way things are being handled now, no one knows anything. Do you know what the Likud's position is? Do you know what Shamir's position is? I do not.

[Shilon] Are you familiar with Shamir's current position?
[Peres] No, I am not. Not only do I not know his position, but I believe even those who claim to know where Shamir stands do not.

[Shilon] Did he not speak to you yesterday and give you an update on Arens' meetings in Washington?
[Peres] No, no. Even if he would have briefed me, he merely would have given me information. I am not cognizant of his positions regarding the issues on the agenda, and to the best of my knowledge, no one is. [passage omitted]

[Shilon] The scepticism you show here regarding the government's capacity to continue the peace process actually means you are saying there is no chance. Even if the present move succeeds and a meeting in Washington takes place, Shamir's method of handling things will lead nowhere, as far as you are concerned. So why are you still waiting?
[Peres] Look, I am for progressing forward together for as far as we can go. I know somewhere along the way, in the middle or toward the end, we will separate. I think, however, that a different coalition has formed. One cannot only ask all the time what Shamir says or does not say. Today there is a coalition of a majority in the Knesset that supports launching the peace talks as proposed. This previously was not the case.

[Shilon] Are the five breakaway Liberal Knesset members [MK's] also part of this coalition?
[Peres] No, we have a majority even without them.

[Shilon] But are you conducting any dialogue with them?
[Peres] I am not conducting any dialogue with them, and at this time, I refrain from interfering in Likud affairs. I only would like to say the religious parties have changed, and this is not a clandestine development. It is taking place loudly and in broad daylight. [passage omitted]

[Shilon] With your permission, I would like to return for a minute to the Liberals who have resigned or are in the process of establishing their own faction within the Likud. Could you contemplate the possibility of you, Shim'on Peres, establishing a coalition with the participation of Yitzhaq Moda'i, after all he has said about you. [Peres] Have you forgotten we are members in the same government today?

[Shilon] But a coalition, as far as Moda'i is concerned, would constitute a knife in the back of the Likud after you got him to join forces with you.
[Peres] Why are you bringing knives into this? Moda'i and Shamir have a disagreement. Moda'i had a disagreement with me. He and Shamir remain in the same government, even though all the things he said were not exactly complimentary of Mr. Shamir. He made some harsh statements. Now, I do not want you to misunderstand that I am negotiating with anyone; I am not. But there are MK's, and what is determinant is policy, not personal relations. [passage omitted]

[Shilon] Thank you, Mr. Peres.

Shamir's Office Denies Accepted Latest Proposals

TA2702154290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office today denied reports Prime Minister Shamir has accepted the latest U.S. proposals on the Palestinian delegation. Yosi Ahime'ir, the director of the Prime Minister's Office, told our political correspondent Arye Golan these reports are groundless.

Knesset Member [MK] David Magen, who is nominated for the post of minister without portfolio, asserted all the talk of change in the prime minister's positions are deliberate lies purported by Mr. Shamir's opponents within the Likud who are attempting to undermine his leadership.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports David Magen met with the prime minister today and afterwards said he had received the impression Mr. Shamir had not deviated from his positions, from the government's basic guidelines, the Likud's platform, or the decisions taken by the Likud Central Committee.

The prime minister is scheduled to meet with the mayors of the seven largest municipalities who belong to the Likud. The mayors wish to express their support for Shamir and to call for unity in the Likud and continued backing for Shamir's leadership.

'Almost Full' Agreement on Delegation, Agenda

TA2802114990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said there is almost full agreement on the composition of the Palestinian delegation and the agenda for the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. The outstanding issues await Prime Minister Shamir's decision. He also said Yasir 'Arafat is doing everything possible to reach an agreement. The Egyptian foreign minister made the remarks to elements in Europe, and they reached Jerusalem from there.

Our correspondent Arye Golan adds 'Abd-al-Majid was supposed to have gone to Washington last week when Foreign Minister Arens conferred there with Secretary Baker. The trilateral meeting did not take place because 'Abd-al-Majid accompanied the Egyptian president on his visit to Jordan.

Right of Return Said Limited to Territories

TA2702133890 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 27 Feb 90 pp 1, 4

[By Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, the head of the Arab Journalists Association in the West Bank, affiliated with the mainstream PLO, said "according to the new PLO strategy, the Palestinian right of return will be confined to the borders of the Palestinian state—the West Bank and the Gaza Strip."

Abu-'Ayyash stressed that in the past, the Palestinians indeed had meant to return to 'Akko and Beersheba. The new policy adopted by the PLO, however, stipulates two states with a limited right of return: Jews to Israel and Palestinians to Palestine.

Abu-'Ayyash was giving an interview to HAPATISH [new weekly promoting positions of Sephardi Jews], following a meeting with residents of Giv'at Amal, which formerly was known as Jamusin—the village where Abu-'Ayyash's family used to live.

Abu-'Ayyash also said all talk of the theory of stages and the right of return as a means to annihilate Israel are fraudulent lies by Israeli leaders who are trying to frighten in order to prevent peace. The interview conducted by reporter Shay Ben-Asulin took place one day before Abu-'Ayyash left for talks in Washington.

During his meetings in Washington, Abu-'Ayyash expressed his opposition to any attempts to catagorize him as an East Jerusalemite because his office is situated there. Palestinian sources in East Jerusalem told our correspondent this was the reason contacts designed to nominate an authentic East Jerusalem delegation—conducting additional addresses in the West Bank - have been renewed. This mainly relates to the candidacy of Sari Nusaybah, but additional names of East Jerusalem residents can be found in the list.

Sari Nusaybah has an apartment in the Abu-Dis neighborhood of Jerusalem and another apartment in Jericho. Nusaybah told our correspondent that at this stage, all reports of the delegation's composition are mere guesses.

Nusaybah on 'Suitable' Opportunities for Peace

TA2702172190 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 27 Feb 90 p 2

[Interview with Bi'r Zayt University Professor Sari Nusaybah by Da'ud Kuttab; date and place not given]

[Text] [Kuttab] Bassam Abu-Sharif has said there is a possibility of conducting a Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Cairo within two weeks. Do you feel this actually is possible?

[Nusaybah] Undoubtedly, the possibilities of a Cairo meeting are increasing daily, bearing in mind we are talking about possibilities, not about definite matters. As to the reasons, first of all, they are general and concern the international interest in launching a peace process. We should be aware of the fact a diminishing world media interest in intifadah events does not reflect a diminishing world political interest in them. Rather, there is a continuous follow-up of the peace process conditions by Western governments and the two superpowers. Second are the developments in the Israeli political map, especially the erosion of the Likud's stature, specifically the position of Shamir. This development results in bolstering the Alignment's power to move in the direction toward which the United States is trying to push Israel. We should remember there is agreement on the broad outlines of a peace process between the U.S. Administration on the one hand and the Alignment on the other. The opportunities on the Israeli level, therefore, are suitable for advancing the peace process.

[Kuttab] There is great confusion in the occupied territories over the names of the Palestinian delegation. What is the importance of these names, and what is their role in the future?

[Nusaybah] As far as I know, the PLO until now has refused to present a namelist of the Palestinian delegation, and it will not present such a list unless Israel adopts a clear stance whereby it will agree to attend the expected meeting in Cairo. As we are aware, Shamir so far has not accepted the broad outlines put forward by the United States for convening the Cairo conference, including specifically those which do not rule out the possibility of official PLO participation in the peace process at a later stage. As to the confusion, our people are aware this has been created by Israel, particularly regarding the issues of Jerusalem and the deportees. Shamir wants to exclude these two issues completely from the negotiations.

As to the Palestinian position, it seems that in principle the PLO is ready to form a Palestinian delegation that will attend a meeting in Cairo, which will be the first of its kind between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. The PLO will rely on a series of principles in forming this delegation, whose task will be confined to attending only one meeting. On our part, I believe the two conditions that must be provided in this situation are: First, the PLO should form this delegation, and second, this delegation should be closely and personally linked to the PLO's technical and political organizations in all stages of the dialogue and meetings.

[Kuttab] There are Israeli attempts to evade the issue of Jerusalem and its representation through double addresses. What is your opinion?

[Nusaybah] Israel has begun to realize the form and content are inseparable. Consequently, ruling out Jerusalem personalities means placing obstacles and impediments at the outset to the possibility of inserting the issue of Jerusalem in the dialogue and then in the negotiations. I believe all attempts by Israel to diversify the specifications will fail. This is for several reasons, most important of which is Jerusalem is not an exclusive possession, but belongs to the entire Palestinian people. This means there is no Palestinian who will accept any "trick" that will result in separating Jerusalem from the other parts of the Palestinian West Bank. As to the Palestinian side, a Jerusalemite knows himself and will not succumb to Israeli descriptions and specifications of himself.

[Kuttab] What are the issues one should concentrate on in the event the Cairo dialogue is conducted?

[Nusaybah] Israel will go to Cairo to achieve its aim. As for the Palestinian side, it should exploit the Cairo dialogue to realize its goal as well. In my opinion, the Palestinian side's goal must be to open the way for the achievement of freedom and independence for the Palestinian people. This requires preparing the climate for an official PLO entry into the arena of negotiations and developing the dialogue toward an international conference. In all instances, the expected media attention should be utilized to highlight the just Palestinian demands and the sufferings of the Palestinian people under occupation. This will increase international support, as well as increase pressure on Israel to give the Palestinian people their right.

[Kuttab] What are the conditions and specifications that must be provided in the Palestinian delegation?

[Nusaybah] I believe there are thousands of Palestinians who possess the necessary capabilities and qualifications. If the delegation is formed, our responsibility as a people is to support this delegation as much as we can, especially since the heavy responsibilities falling on its members will haunt them forever, and this is not a situation one likes to be in. The road still is long and difficult. The names and personalities will be replaced again and again until the first ones will be forgotten at best. Despite this, the march of 1,000 miles begins with a first step, and we as a people need to launch the process for constructing a state.

Shamir's Campaign 'To Win Over' Likud MK's

TA2702143890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today telephoned his deputy, David Levi, and invited him to a meeting, but Mr. Levi declined. This was learned by our political correspondent Arye Golan. David Levi told the prime minister he sees no point in this meeting, in view of similar past meetings and because of the accomplished facts that have been established in the political sphere and the Likud Party.

In reaction, the Prime Minister's Office said Mr. Shamir had invited Minister Levi to a political discussion in the wake of dozens of such requests from his movement's members. The office further stated there are no accomplished facts in the political sphere.

Likud Central Committee Chairman Ari'el Sharon has sent a letter to the prime minister demanding the Central Committee be convened prior to the Inner Cabinet meeting, in which decisions on the future of the political process will be made. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir notes the Likud regulations demand the Central Committee convene after a consultation between the Central Committee chairman and the party chairman.

As part of a campaign to win over Likud members, the prime minister today met with Knesset Member [MK] Beni Begin, who is famous for his vehement objection to including deportees and East Jerusalem residents in the Palestinian delegation. It further has been learned elements close to the prime minister, including several ministers, today took action to allay anxieties among Likud members, mainly among those MK's who demand the prime minister convene the party prior to the Inner Cabinet meeting to brief them on political developments.

Our correspondent was told the prime minister wishes to point out the reports alleging he has reneged on his former stands are untrue. It further was stated Mr. Shamir at present is forming his decision, has surrendered to no ultimatum, and therefore is unable for now to convene the party.

Three Parties Jointly Appeal for New Elections

TA2702192590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Tehiya, Moledet, and Tzomet have issued a joint appeal for new elections. The three parties did so at a Knesset news conference this afternoon. The speakers all said that the Likud should join the opposition ranks in order to be—as they put it—the watchdog over the land of Israel. The three factions also announced they will take unspecified actions in order to halt what they termed the deteriorating political situation.

Likud MK's Plan Alliance Without Shamir

TA2702205690 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Feb 90

[By Hanan 'Azran]

[Excerpts] The Prime Minister's Office today attempted to calm the ferment among Likud Knesset members [MK's]. Those who signed the so-called Document of the 22 calling for an immediate convening of the Likud faction were summoned to the office. With others, Mr. Shamir conducted telephone conversations. [passage omitted]

Liberal MK's, who are forming independent factions, met this afternoon. Behind the scenes there now is talk of a possible political alliance among religious parties and the Moda'i group, designed to secure the eventual retirement of Mr. Shamir from Likud leadership and set up a Likud-led narrow-based government without him.

The internal front against the prime minister's steps now includes the seceding Liberals, the Eretz Yisra'el Front, the constraints ministers, the Levi camp in the Likud, and MK Ari'el Sharon and his camp; these form about one-half of the Likud MK's. Some of these Likud MK's now are threatening to withhold a vote of confidence in Mr. Shamir's government. [passage omitted]

A short while ago, in a meeting with Likud mayors, Mr. Shamir said: I am not fighting for my own status, but only and uniquely for Eretz Yisra'el, the State of Israel, and the Likud. Addressing the Likud mayors who met with him, Mr. Shamir said: I agree to your initiative to arrange a meeting between the Likud ministers and the prime minister. This may be another opening, another, perhaps last-minute, initiative to bring about calm in the Likud.

'Senior Official': 230,000 Immigrants in 1990

TA2702204190 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Feb 90

[By political correspondent Yig'al Goren]

[Excerpt] In the midst of what today was described as the political moment of truth, Jerusalem received news that left all in a state of shock: Israel must get adjust itself to the absorption of 230,000 immigrants this year. This figure is three times higher than the previous estimates, which stood at 70,000 to 80,000 immigrants in 1990.

This news was imparted today by a senior official who deals with emigration from the Soviet Union, and whose reports so far have proven completely reliable.

The change stems from the fact new emigration channels have been opened for Jews exiting the Soviet Union. These new routes shorten the waiting period and allow great numbers to arrive.

Members of the Ministerial Immigration Committee simply were struck dumb by the news, because the new

figure demands national emergency reassessment and canceling all existing plans. Regarding, for example, the sum of 10 billion shekels will be needed for immigrant absorption this year—as compared with the 3 billion allotted so far. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic Relations Restored With Poland 27 Feb

Arens, Skubiszewski Comment

TA2702121890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Israel and Poland renewed diplomatic relations this morning. Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and his Polish counterpart Krzysztof Skubiszewski signed the agreement at 1030 in Warsaw.

Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki said at the ceremony he was happy this day finally had arrived.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 27 February adds "Minister Arens said after the ceremony Israel would extend economic and financial assistance to Poland. He pointed out Israel expects Poland to support its positions in the international arena. Minister Skubiszewski said he was proud of the agreement and hopes both countries enjoy excellent relations. Minister Arens is due to meet with Polish leaders in Warsaw today. He is accompanied by Israeli industrialists who are looking into investment ventures in Poland."]

Arens Notes 'Full Understanding'

TA2702163690 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens from Warsaw, by Uri Paz and Li'ora Nir—live]

[Excerpt] [Paz] Did the hand tremble which signed the agreement on the resumption of ties? The question, Minister Arens, mainly is prompted by the fact the country in question is Poland.
[Arens] The hand did not tremble, but there is pride in our hearts. You caught me in the middle of a little party we are having here at the embassy, having put up the plaque of the Embassy of Israel on the building. After the long and tragic history of the Jewish nation and of Poland, we are opening a new chapter—one of good, close relations, I hope, between Israel and Poland.

[Paz] Today you met with the Polish president, prime minister, and finance minister. Can you already state achievements have been attained?
[Arens] I have not yet met with the president of Poland; I will meet him in 30 minutes. I have, however, met with the foreign minister and with Mr. Mazowiecki, the prime minister. I have just returned from the meeting with him. We also have met with the finance minister. First of all, the fact the Poles are—in their words—correcting a mistake they made 22 years ago and now want to maintain proper good relations with us is not a negligible achievement at all. I found here appreciation—occasionally even admiration—for the State of Israel, as well as a desire to maintain good ties. They also expect our assistance in this difficult time. A delegation of representatives of the Israeli industries and economy is here, and I believe it is forging initial ties that will secure the development of economic ties beneficial to both countries.

[Nir] In this festive atmosphere, did you have time to broach political issues?
[Arens] We did broach political issues. As in the other East European countries, we found here a lot of understanding for problems facing Israel and for Israel's stands. Their understanding even may be greater and fuller than that found in West European countries.

[Paz] Do the Poles take a stand on the question of the Palestinian delegation?
[Arens] I have heard nothing about any such stand here, nor did I hear a word of criticism of Israel's stands. As I said, I feel there is full understanding here for our stands. [passage omitted]

Support Sought for Polish Border

TA2702185390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Poland has asked Israel to support its demand that its western border not be affected by an eventual German reunification. The request was made today at a meeting in Warsaw between Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and his Polish counterpart, Krzysztof Skubiszewski. The meeting followed the ceremony, at which Poland and Israel resumed full diplomatic relations after a 23-year break.

The Polish foreign minister also called on Israel to support its demand to take part in talks on the future of Germany. Foreign Minister Arens said a specific guarantee was in fact needed to see that Poland's borders are not changed.

The Polish foreign minister also informed Arens that the Carmelite monastery at Auschwitz would be moved within a year and a half. Arens replied that this was too long. He called for an interim solution in order to remove the nuns from the site.

This evening Foreign Minister Arens is meeting with Polish President Jaruzelski and, following their talks, he will hold a press conference.

Rabin Voices Concern Over U.S. Tanks to Egypt

TA2702130490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said Israel is asking the United States for compensation for the supply of M-60 tanks to Egypt. He pointed out although Egypt is at peace with Israel, we are not happy with the U.S.

decision to supply it with these tanks. Our correspondent David Essing reports the defense minister was addressing the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. [passage omitted]

West Bank Arab Murdered; 8 Gazans Wounded

TA2702192890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Excerpts] A resident of the village of Bayt Furik near Nabulus was murdered today by local residents. Villagers said the man had confessed to cooperating with the Israeli authorities. Protests were held in a number of areas today over the continued closure of universities in the territories. Mark Weiss reports:

[Passage omitted] Today protests were called for by the Unified Uprising Leadership, and activists say further protests over the two-year closure of the universities will be held.

A petrol bomb was thrown at a parked Israeli vehicle in Ramallah today. The device ignited close to the car, causing light damage to the vehicle, but no one was injured. Palestinian sources said the vehicle belonged to tax collectors.

Eight Gaza Strip residents were injured in clashes with soldiers today. The violence came as residents marched at a number of places, also to protest the continued closure of the universities.

In Khan Yunus, a five-year-old girl was hit by an Army vehicle today. She was taken to a local hospital for treatment.

A curfew remains in force in Rafah.

Update on 26 Feb Incidents in Territories

TA2702144490

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 27 February in a page 7 report by David Regev, Tzvi Singer, and Roni Shaqed reports "disturbances of an unprecedented scope took place in the Rafah refugee camp yesterday."

According to Arab sources more than 80 residents were injured. The sources claimed hundreds of Israel Defense Forces [IDF] troops dispersed the demonstrators by various means with the aid of a helicopter. The IDF spokesman reported only 29 people were injured.

"The riots were sparked by the death of Wahil al-Hamas, 20, a camp resident, who was killed one day ago.

"In East Jerusalem, four buses were attacked yesterday with stones and firebombs. There were no casualties, but three buses were damaged. At 1230 in the afternoon a firebomb was hurled at a No. 44 bus as it made its way through Zur Bakhar in south Jerusalem. The firebomb ignited but no damage was caused."

"The military court in Ramallah sentenced Murad Hasan al-Dik, a villager from Nu'aymah in the Ramallah District, to 27 years in prison after he was convicted of murdering a suspected collaborator."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 GMT on 27 February reports "in Rafah, in the Gaza Strip the curfew continues today following the violent disturbances there yesterday.

"Security forces have demolished the houses of two brothers in the town of Bani Suhaylah in the Gaza Strip. The two are suspected of murdering a local resident for allegedly helping Israeli authorities and have been detained. In Nabulus the Army sealed the home of Imam Muhsin Rosa, the head of the red eagle gang killed during clashes with soldiers three months ago. The members of the gang said during questioning that he was involved in the murder of eight local residents suspected of aiding the authorities."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 27 February reports that "'Ali Nasri, 45, of Bayt Furik in Samaria, was murdered in his village this morning. Local residents told our correspondent Arye Gus the man was taken to the village center by masked youths who called themselves the Revolutionary Defense Service. Nasri publicly admitted he collaborated with Israel and then was beaten by inhabitants. He then was taken to a nearby house, where he was murdered. Our correspondent points out that seven members of a Fatah squad were uncovered in Bayt Furik last week, and it is possible Nasri was murdered on suspicion he had turned them in."

Israeli Arabs Protest Wave of Soviet Immigrants

TA2702135090 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Feb 90 p 12

[By David Rudge]

[Text] Shefar'am—Some Israeli Arabs yesterday added their voices to the Arab protest over the wave of Soviet Jewish immigration.

Umm al-Fahm Mayor Shaykh Ra'id called for immigration to Israel to be stopped.

Salah suggested Israeli Arabs should send a delegation to the Soviet Union, to other Eastern European countries and to the UN to "highlight the problems" caused by Soviet Jewish immigration and press for it to cease.

The bearded Islamic Movement representative made the coments during a press conference conducted by Israeli Arab leaders in Shefar'am to outline the reasons for yesterday's general strike of the Arab sector.

He charged the influx of new immigrants would harm Israeli Arabs, as well as the peace process.

Salah repeated his comments later at a mass demonstration in Haifa, earning widespread applause from the protesters.

He told the crowd that the economic crisis affecting the country would worsen because of the expected influx of immigrants. Israeli Arabs, already suffering from discrimination and a higher-than-average unemployment rate, would bear the brunt of any cutbacks to pay for absorbing and accommodating the immigrants and providing them with jobs, he said.

The influx of immigrants was also harming the prospects of peace, said Salah, adding that Israeli Arabs could not ignore the "suffering of our Palestinian brethren in the territories."

Nazareth Mayor Tawfiq Zayyad said Salah was "playing to the crowd." He stressed that the monitoring committee that organized the strike, and comprised Arab MKs [Knesset Members] and local council heads, had not discussed the immigration issue.

Nevertheless, Zayyad said they would oppose any attempts to settle new immigrants on land owned by Israeli Arabs, or in "the occupied territories, because it damages the prospects of peace in the Middle East."

Arab Citizens Strike Over 'Debt-Ridden' Councils

TA2702141490 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Feb 90 p 12

[By David Rudge]

[Excerpts] Haifa—The overwhelming majority of Israel's 650,000 Arab citizens went on strike yesterday to press the government to bail out debt-ridden Arab local councils.

The nationwide general strike passed relatively quietly. In Haifa, thousands participated in a protest march through the streets in the afternoon, followed by a mass demonstration outside City Hall.

The protesters carried placards and chanted slogans calling for equality for Israeli Arabs and a separate state for the Palestinian people alongside Israel. They also protested against the "policies of oppression and occupation in the territories."

Police estimated the number of demonstrators at over 2,500, although organizers put the number as high as 10,000.

Three youths were arrested on suspicion of distributing inflammatory material, but were later released on bail.

Mayor Arye Gur'el expressed solidarity with the plight of the Arab councils and called on the government to transfer funds to enable them to continue functioning.

His words were echoed by Maxim Levi, mayor of Lod and chairman of the Local Authorities Union, who stressed that Jewish councils were also in financial straits.

Arab leaders warned that the general strike, which kept over 230,000 children away from school, closed businesses and kept many workers at home, was only the opening salvo in their battle "for equality and against discrimination."

"There were a few people who went to work, but then there are always aberrations," MK [Knesset Member] 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah (Democratic Arab Party) told THE JERUSALEM POST during a press conference in Shefaram in the morning.

Arab leaders at the conference criticized [Trade Union Movement Secretary Yisra'el] Qeysar's stand and that of Ehud Olmert, the minister responsible for minority affairs who said their complaints were justified but charged that a nationwide strike was inappropriate. [passage omitted]

"It is Olmert himself and his ministry, which they don't even deign to describe as the Arab affairs ministry, that are inappropriate," declared MK Muhammad Mi'ari (Progressive List for Peace).

He maintained that the "huge disparity" in budgets allocated to Arab councils and those given to similar-sized Jewish local authorities was only one aspect of the government's "discriminatory and racist policies" against Israeli Arabs since the establishment of the state.

"The government policies of oppression in the territories are translated within the Green Line into discrimination against Israeli Arabs," charged veteran politician Tawfiq Tubi.

He said threats by Olmert and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to cut off contacts with Arab leaders if they insisted on presenting their complaints to foreign ambassadors would not deter them from raising the plight of the Arab councils, and that of Israeli Arabs in general, with those ambassadors.

"We don't want confrontation, but we do want our rights and we will do everything to force the government to treat us as equal citizens," said Tubi.

The general strike was the latest in a series of measures designed to press the government to honour agreements, signed three months ago, to bail out the councils, which have accumulated debts of NIS 100 million, and to increase their regular and development budgets.

Municipal services in 47 Arab local authorities have been shut down for nearly three weeks in protest over the situation. Salaries have not been paid at many councils—some of them for six months.

Interior Minister Arye Der'i met with Finance Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday in an effort to resolve the

problems and enable the implementation of the agreements signed three months ago.

But Arab leaders maintained that the meeting had failed to produce any "positive results."

They expressed satisfaction over the widespread support for the strike and the fact that "calls to keep the peace had been respected."

Nazareth mayor Tawfiq Zayyad stressed that they were prepared to instigate "more drastic measures" unless their demands were met. He declined to elaborate.

Arab leaders are to meet again soon to decide what further steps to take. The monitoring committee of Arab MKs and council heads, which organized the general strike, has threatened to raise the matter in the UN, as well as with the foreign ambassadors here, unless a solution to the financial plight of the Arab councils is forthcoming.

Arab Councils End Strike After Loans Guaranteed

TA2702211490 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Excerpt] The strike of the Arab local councils, which lasted nearly three weeks, has ended. Interior Minister Arye Der'i today arrived at an agreement with Dr. Amnon Goldsmidt, Banking Supervision Department director at the Bank of Israel, by which banks will transfer to the local councils the loans promised to them to cover their deficits. [passage omitted]

Territories' Residents Take Action on Delegation

TA2702203590 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Feb 90

[By Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari]

[Text] Residents of the territories are not awaiting Shamir's decision regarding the Palestinian delegation; the grand race already has been launched. What is plain is the local leaderships do not wish to wait inactively for a PLO-diCtated list of delegates; nor do they want to assume an a priori submissive stance regarding the composition of the delegation to the Cairo talks.

Contrary to the many and various reports, even at this hour there still exists no list of delegates. In an interview to be published in tomorrow's AL-QUDS, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash—who has been described as the future head of the Palestinian delegation, and who is in the United States at present—says that so far, the PLO has not proposed any names whatsoever. This is the complete truth.

What has happened is figures from the territories have been running lobbies designed to secure the inclusion of their names in the list. Various PLO activists abroad have attempted to promote their aides and relatives through leaks to the press, but there still is no list—and there will be none before the foreign ministers' encounter.

Another point: Talks with prominent dignitaries in the territories revealed their fear proposed delegates will be burnt, as they put it, during the crises and door slammings expected to take place in the process. Even those who are eager to be included in the delegation, therefore, demand public guarantees be given by Yasir 'Arafat in advance, in order not to be hurt. Some of them have said even if 'Arafat reveals flexibility on the point of the East Jerusalem resident's exact address, they themselves—as well as Faysal al-Husayni—will insist on including a genuine representative of East Jerusalem. Others told us that the delegation should be composed of persons whose visiting card, as far as Palestinian organizations' cadres are concerned, are spotless.

Notables in the territories, moreover, have pointed out it is vital an early understanding be reached with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] on the question of the delegation's composition. In addition to the inclusion of representatives seen as appropriate by the Islamic Movement, this also means political accord.

A true race is being waged these days by deportees' family members, who are trying to promote their relatives' chances to return home prior to making the trip to Cairo. They are conducting an unprecedented pressure campaign—both on PLO-Tunis and on East Jerusalem newspapers—to obtain extra points for their proposed delegates.

To sum up: Even after the move is given a green light, a rather complicated tangle is to be expected in the territories. The delegation will not be easy to compose, even if dictated by 'Arafat. It seems the process of composing the delegation now merely is at the starting point.

Universities To Stay Closed Until 'End of May'

TA2702210690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] The military government has extended by three months the order by which the seven universities in the territories had been closed. Arab sources told our correspondent Arye Gus that heads of the universities were informed today the order will remain effective until the end of May. In protest over this decision, a general strike will be conducted in the territories tomorrow. A strike over the same issue was conducted today.

Curfews in Strip; 3 West Bank Colleges To Reopen

TA2802082990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] imposed a curfew on the al-Burayj and al-Nusayrat refugee camps in the Gaza Strip because of yesterday's disturbances. The curfew in Rafah continues. Our correspondent Arye Gus points out there is a general strike in the territories today protesting the continued closure of the universities. Very

few from the Gaza Strip left for work in Israel this morning.

The Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria today authorized three institutions of higher learning and colleges to reopen. These are teacher seminaries in al-'Arrub and Ramallah, as well as a religious college in Abu-Dis. Studies actually will resume in a few days because of the need to organize technically and administratively for resuming classes.

Crown Prince Hasan Receives Hungary's Somogyi

JN2702123190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received at the Royal Court today Ferenc Somogyi, Hungarian state secretary of foreign affairs, who is visiting Jordan.

During the meeting the two sides discussed relations in light of developments in the international arena, including the recent developments in East Europe and the importance of promoting the existing relations between the two friendly countries.

Husayn, Kuwaiti Emir Hold 'Brotherly' Talks

JN2702134190 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Feb 90 pp 1, 3

[Text] Kuwait—His Majesty King Husayn and Kuwaiti Emir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah held talks Monday on Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations and exchanged views on pan-Arab issues, the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA reported.

The two leaders, who met in a closed session shortly after the King's arrival here, also discussed international developments and their impact on the Arab World, PETRA said. "The talks were held in a brotherly atmosphere characterised by mutual confidence and emphasised joint alertness and assessment of all issues covered," according to the agency.

The King, who is accompanied by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Political Advisor 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim, arrived here earlier in the day on the first leg of a visit to the Gulf states, including Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.

The King was expected to discuss with the Gulf leaders the latest developments in the region and means to arrive at a unified strategy to confront the challenges facing the Arab World, particularly the threats inherent in the massive influx of Jewish immigrants to Palestine. The King is also expected to discuss bilateral relations and brief the Gulf leaders on the outcome of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) held in Amman Saturday.

According to an Arab diplomat quoted by the ASSOCIATED PRESS, the King is expected to explore the possibility of convening an emergency Arab summit "unprecedented in terms of seriousness and readiness to take concrete steps to confront the perils besetting the Arab Nation."

The issue of Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and the possibility that the bulk of the new arrivals could be settled in the occupied territories are the main topics expected to be discussed by the king with the Gulf leaders.

As King Husayn arrived, the emir received a message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, "who warned against the dangers of the influx of the Soviet Jews on the future of the Palestinian people and their national rights," Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said.

"Colonel al-Qadhdhafi also called for collaboration of efforts to confront these dangers and stressed the need for Arab foreign ministers being present at the Security Council when it takes up the question of immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine," he added.

The Soviet Union has said that it was asking the council to debate the question and urged the United States to cooperate.

In Abu Dhabi, a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Monday that the PLO had asked the Soviet Union to encourage Soviet Jews to emigrate to countries other than Israel.

'Abd al-Latif Abu-Hijlah, director-general of the PLO's Political Department, said it was also suggested that Soviet Jews spend more time in other countries while they decide whether to go to Israel.

"Let there be stations for the Soviet Jews before reaching Israel, as some of them might not like to emigrate to Israel and those should be given a chance to freely decide their destination," Abu-Hijlah told the ASSOCIATED PRESS.

Soviet Jews currently must travel through other countries to get to Israel, but Abu-Hijlah was suggesting that they take more time before proceeding to their ultimate destinations.

Israel expects 50,000 to 100,000 Soviet Jews to arrive this year and up to 500,000 over the next five years.

Abu-Hijlah made it clear that the PLO, and its Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in particular, was eager not to allow the issue of the Soviet Jews' emigration affect traditionally strong Soviet-Palestinian relations.

"The PLO is treating this problem with the utmost caution to eliminate its negative effects within the framework of the friendly and cooperative relationship with the Soviet government," he said.

Abu-Hijlah, deputy to PLO political chief Faruq Qaddumi, indicated that the proposal that Jews spend more time in other countries was part of suggestions he said the PLO leadership presented to Moscow.

Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman Vadim P. Perfiliyev last Thursday confirmed that Moscow will not allow direct air flights to Israel.

"The Soviet decision suspending possible direct trips was taken following intensive PLO diplomacy against the flow of Soviet Jews directly to Israel," said Abu-Hijlah.

House Holds Closed Session, Discusses 'Excesses'

JN2802091390 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Feb 90 p 1

[By "a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter"]

[Text] Amman—The Lower House of Parliament held its first closed session Tuesday, with the debate centring on the performance of the various House committees and on complaints about "excesses" by some deputies as well as on ways to regulate internal parliamentary procedures.

Parliamentary sources said the four-hour session, attended by cabinet ministers, assailed the Finance Committee for failing to achieve progress in its task of investigating the causes of the Kingdom's economic crisis which erupted in 1988.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said deputies expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of House committees in general but agreed to give the 15-member Finance Committee two weeks to present a report on its findings to the House.

They told the Jordan Times that the closed session, the first since the opening of parliament on Dec. 27, also dealt with complaints that some deputies were acting contrary to parliamentary practices by provoking public sector employees to strike or to stage sit-ins to achieve political gains outside the perimetres of parliament.

"Some deputies have been exploiting the social impact of the economic prices on wages to achieve political gains on the street," a parliament member told the Jordan Times. "A few of them have been encouraging public sector workers to strike and perform sit-ins so as to gain better wages and improve working conditions."

However, he added, "they are politicising the problem in order to score successes at the expense of a purely economic problem."

The deputy said examples of such behaviour include the recently-resolved Petra Bank protest strike and labour protests by the workers of the Jordan Cement Factories.

"If they have something to say concerning these legitimate grievances," he said, "I do not see why they cannot tackle them in or through parliament," the deputy added.

Tuesday's session also discussed procedural issues such as regulating parliamentary debates and problems that surfaced during the House's budget session earlier this month.

The closed session was originally scheduled to debate the issue of Soviet Jewish migration and Israeli threats against Jordan and Palestinians in the occupied territories. But the presence of the prime minister outside Jordan, on a trip to the Gulf with His Majesty the King, made the House postpone discussion of these two issues until a future date. [Major Amman Arabic-language dailies—AL-RA'Y, AL-DUSTUR, and SAWT AL-SHA'B—on 28 February all carry a brief PETRA-JNA item reporting that the closed session had been held, but offer no details on the topics discussed]

Khalil Asks LF To Divert Fighting to West Beirut

NC2802074790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Brigadier General Ilyas Khalil, 'Awn's representative in the security committee, has stated that normalization in the eastern areas is rejected because it consolidates confrontation lines in these areas. He said that the state negotiates with militias only to assimilate them.

Khalil called on the Lebanese Forces [LF] to withdraw their men from Beirut and to send them to the confrontation lines [with West Beirut]. He said that opening subsidiary roads and crossing points does not contribute to resolving the problem.

Ja'ja' Reportedly Ready To Withdraw Forces

NC2802125590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Press reports cite political sources as saying today that two envoys from Samir Ja'ja' have emphasized to 'Awn that Ja'ja' is prepared to withdraw his forces from al-Ashrafiyah and Beirut and to assemble them in the barracks in Kasrawan and Jubayl, dissolve his militia security organ, and approve of the Army's return to its barracks in these two areas and its deployment on the front lines [around the eastern area], provided that action and orders are coordinated through a joint command.

Citing the same sources, the reports add that 'Awn will continue to pursue his recent option unless he receives clear-cut and conclusive responses. The reports also say he might extend the Thursday deadline he has given the mediation committee to the end of the week because he prefers to achieve the solution he has charted through dialogue rather than through other means that could be severe with regard to the people's lives and property, according to REUTER.

Lebanese Forces Intercept Arms Intended for 'Awn

NC2802121090 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] The Lebanese Forces have unloaded the arms-carrying ship Atlantic III in Juniyah. The vessel was carrying an Iraqi arms shipment for former Army Commander Michel 'Awn, but the weapons could not be delivered to 'Awn as a result of the battles in the eastern area.

Informed sources told the Voice of the People today that the cargo included very sophisticated weapons: T-55 tanks, heavy artillery, 155-mm shells, and various types of rockets, including French Milan missiles.

The sources said that the most important weapons carried by the ship were military helicopters. These sources said there were six helicopters, but other sources have informed us that there were 12 fully equipped helicopters. They are now in the hands of the Lebanese Forces.

Government Vows To 'Save' Eastern Area

NC2702100490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni returned from Damascus last night. During his visit, he met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The speaker visited President Ilyas al-Hirawi at 1800 yesterday. After the visit, the speaker said: The present, delicate situation requires constant consultations on all new developments in Lebanon and in the region in general. I briefed the president on my talks in Damascus. He declared that the legitimate authority has made a decision to save the eastern area, and it is proceeding to set the time and prepare for implementing the decision.

'Awn Refuses To Meet Mediation Committee

NC2702160490 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] General Michel 'Awn refused to meet with the mediation committee members today. According to 'Awn's radio station, the committee has failed to reach a radical political solution that would end the anomalous situation resulting from the policy of procrastination and evasion pursued by the so-called Lebanese Forces command.

Meanwhile, pro-'Awn sources have affirmed that the deadline given to the so-called Lebanese Forces and the mediation committee for unifying the guns under the Army command constitutes an ultimatum to the Forces' command.

LF Source on 'Awn's Stand

NC2702164390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] As the mediation committee again tries to normalize the situation in the eastern area, a responsible source in the Lebanese Forces [LF] commented on the claim by 'Awn's information media that the mediation committee is waiting for the Lebanese Forces to stop obstructing the committee's efforts so that it can resume its task. The source said the following:

1. The Lebanese Forces rejects 'Awn and his media hiding behind reports falsely attributed to the mediation committee in an attempt to give their lies the appearance of truth and credibility, when everyone knows that General 'Awn advised the committee that its efforts would end in failure and tried to make it despair.

2. The Lebanese Forces reaffirms to local and foreign public opinion its approval of the six-point agreement in

its entirety. The Lebanese Forces informed the mediation committee of this approval in writing, whereas 'Awn has refrained from c. arly stating his approval of the agreement. He seeks ways of evading this agreement and is interpreting it in a way that is incompatible with the clear wording of the six points.

3. The Lebanese Forces draws the attention of the parties concerned to the fact that Gen. 'Awn and his information media are ignoring the second point of the agreement, which states that there is no decision or intention to abolish the Lebanese Forces, but rather to unify the rifles and confine their tasks to defense. This requires swift action to transfer the Lebanese Forces and the army from the interior of the free areas to the fronts with the Syrian enemy. 'Awn rejects this by his insistence on keeping his army deployed in the neighborhoods and streets of the area under his control, which suggests that he harbors intentions which will not help return life to normal.

4. The Lebanese Forces address another appeal to Gen. 'Awn to end his prevarication and his search for political or military means to abolish the Lebanese Forces and calls on him to avoid any new adventure toward this end in order to preserve what remains of the society's military and economic potential. The Lebanese Forces will hold 'Awn responsible for any reckless action and for the continuation of the policy of exhausting the institutions and society.

Palestinian Delegation Meets Bishop Abu-Nadir

NC2602073490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Zayd Wahbah led the Palestinian delegation to East Beirut that met with Bishop Khalil Abu-Nadir [member of the East Beirut mediation committee] yesterday. After the meeting, Abu-Nadir expressed hope that the Palestinian initiative would be effective. He hoped that the mediation would succeed and that the Arab League would be attentive to the issue. He said that the Arab League and friendly countries must plan and act together and that there must be a concerted effort to resolve the East Beirut situation and to maintain Lebanon's unity, freedoms, and coexistence.

Palestinian Group Continues Efforts in Beirut

LD2602215790 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] The Palestinian delegation is continuing its efforts and actions at all levels in order to normalize the situation in the eastern region of Beirut, to preserve the cease-fire, and to reach solutions agreed by all sides.

Yesterday in Beirut, the delegation conferred with Dr Samir Ja'ja' for two hours. During the meeting they discussed some of the opinions about the possible points of agreements between the two sides. They agreed to continue the work in this direction, especially after the opening of the crossing points, which took place with the consent of all sides.

The delegation also conferred with Dani Sham'un and his brother [word indistinct] Sham'un, yesterday in the evening after the meeting with the patriarch.

At the same time, the Palestinian delegation was following up the situation, minute by minute, with General 'Awn about these matters.

Palestinian Mediator Wounded in Cyprus Boat Attack

NC2502075890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Wajih Abu-Gharbiyah, member of the Palestinian committee mediating between the two rival parties in East Beirut, was on board the Cypriot vessel that was hit by fire from an unidentified boat. He was among those wounded in the attack.

'Awn Forces Shell Lebanese Forces Positions

NC2702181390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] The security situation suffered a setback this evening when shells began to fall in the al-Ashrafiyah area at 1545. At 1800, mortar and B-7 shells fell in the vicinity of Hotel Dieu, Olivetti, and al-Suyufi. Meanwhile, heavy bursts of medium- and light-caliber weapons fire were directed at the Lebanese Forces positions in the Hotel Dieu and al-Suyufi areas and as far as Jisr al-Wati and Sinn al-Fil.

The 'Awn group's emplacements in the al-Tahwitah area and Hursh Thabit intensified their shelling of al-Ashrafiyah with 82- and 120-mm mortars. Rockets also were fired on the Galerie al-Ittihad-al-Judaydah combat line. A fire broke out near al-Kfuri station in al-Suyufi as a result.

In light of this unexpected military escalation, mediation committee member attorney Shakir Abu-Sulayman held contacts with the Lebanese Forces and Army commands to stop this flare-up. However, the shelling was still in progress as this bulletin was being prepared.

More Fighting in East Beirut

NC2702142290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Heavy sniper fire and skirmishes involving machineguns are currently taking place along the al-Dawrah, al-Ashrafiyah, al-'Adliyah, and Hursh Thabit combat lines. Meanwhile, inhabitants continue to depart the eastern area and Kasrawan en masse to go to West Beirut, the north, al-Biqa', and the south for fear that the situation will flare up again. The two warring sides are building fortifications and massing troops along various fronts.

Shelling Continues 28 Feb

NC2802063090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] The residential neighborhoods in al-Ashrafiyah have been coming under heavy artillery fire for more than four hours since early this morning. This followed intermittent shooting last night. The shelling was concentrated on the outskirts of the al-Ashrafiyah, al-Suyufi, Hotel Dieu, Hayy al-Siryan, and Olivetti areas. The attacks also extended to the areas of Sa'at al-'Abd, Jisr al-Wati, Sinn al-Fil, Galerie al-Ittihad, and al-Judaydah.

The attacks by the 'Awn group against al-Ashrafiyah caused several fires, the most important at al-Kufuri station in al-Suyufi area.

Casualty Toll in Eastern Area Tallied

NC2702080690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] At 2315 yesterday, 'Awn's group fired two mortar rounds at the residential areas of al-Siyufi. Yesterday 'Awn's group opened heavy-caliber machinegun fire at residential areas in al-Nasirah, killing citizen George Khattar and wounding citizen Michel Haddad.

[Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic at 0530 GMT on 27 February reports that one person was killed and five were wounded in eastern area clashes on 26 February, raising the casualty toll to 772 killed and 2,249 wounded in the 27 days of fighting.]

Al-Huss Comments on Fighting in East Beirut

NC2402111490 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss has stated that the fierce fighting taking place between the forces of 'Awn and Ja'ja' in East Beirut is a tragic expression of the division Lebanon is experiencing after 15 years of factional conflicts.

In an interview published in the Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS today, Prime Minister al-Huss says that the last slogans of arrogance and deception have fallen in the war of the eastern area, where it used to be said that the security of Christian society was above all other considerations. Al-Huss emphasizes that those who raised this slogan are themselves undermining the security of the area under their domination and threatening the security of all Lebanon. He adds: These persons raised the flag of sectarian partitionist plans. They did not listen to when it was said that isolation leads to partition and partition leads to fragmentation, that sectariansim leads to Christianity, and that confessionalism leads to unrestrained egotistical, party, or tribal disputes.

Resistance Claims Attacks on Israelis

NC2702172490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] In the south, the Lebanese national front said that one of its groups detonated an explosive charge as a patrol consisting of Israeli troops and agents was passing on the al-Jibbayn-Yarin road early today. The blast destroyed a troop carrier, killing or wounding its passengers. Shortly afterward, the occupation forces raked the area with machineguns.

Another resistance group fired two Katyushas at a position manned by the occupation forces and their agents in 'Ayn Qinya. There have been no immediate reports on the results of the bombardment because of the security cordon thrown around the area.

Israeli Troops Said Massing in Security Zone

NC2702183390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] In southern Lebanon, a security source in the occupied areas reported that the Israeli occupation forces are massing large concentrations of troops inside the border strip, particularly near al-Tayyibah, the al-Shaqif Castle, and al-Mtullah. The Israeli forces also brought in 155-mm field artillery which were stationed at al-Khiyam, Marj 'Uyun, and the (?Tallat al-Nahas) plain.

Al-Huss, Iranian Envoy Discuss Situation, Rushdie

NC2702171390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon Ahmad Dastmalchiyan and Charge d'Affaires Ahmad Javad Zamanian met for one hour with Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss this morning. In a statement after the meeting, the Iranian ambassador said: We discussed various aspects of the situation in the region and Lebanon, particularly the water and electricity crisis affecting the Lebanese people. We submitted a plan on this issue. It is possible that this plan may be implemented soon in some areas of West Beirut.

The Iranian ambassador went on to say: We also discussed the issue of apostate writer Salman Rushdie. Prime Minister al-Huss' stand was positive and will help us to a great extent.

Al-Asad on People's Assembly, Ties With USSR

JN2802084190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad delivered a speech at the dinner banquet he hosted last night in honor of the People's Assembly members at the end of the Assembly's fourth legislative term. The president's speech was in reply to those delivered by a number of Assembly members, in which they thanked the president for honoring them, said how happy they were to meet with him and how much they appreciated our country's great accomplishments under his leadership, and praised the president. He said:

Thank you for your kind words. I feel that all the words of praise I have heard are sincere. The important thing is the essence of the word and the sincere feelings and opinions the word contains. I thank you for the efforts you have made during the past four years. It is true that four years in the life of the Assembly and in the life of an individual in general pass like lightning, as one of you put it. However, the number of years is not important; what is important is what we produce and achieve during these years. The standard is the good things we do for our country. If we did good things and did a good job, then the years are good regardless how few or how many. However, if we failed to do a good job, then they will be miserable years regardless of the number. In all our institutions we aspire to the best. We always feel that we should seek the best. I personally feel, although many people say that I work too much, that I should do more work. Every day I find something that urges me to do more work. There is nothing more troubling than feeling that you have become perfect.

I believe that you share with me the opinion that the People's Assembly, the Council of Ministers, all the institutions, and all citizens should always do more, do better, and do it more satisfactorily. However, this does not mean that we did not work or did not do a good job. Being outside the People's Assembly, just like any other citizen, I follow what you do. I believe that the Assembly's work and achievements were good. Anyone in our country who is fair can say that the Assembly has had good achievements and took those who are negligent to task in a manner not applied before. You, me, and every citizen always want to see an energetic and active Assembly. Even during the last days of the legislative term, the citizens were pleased with the debate that took place at the Assembly, some of which was carried on television. The citizens want the People's Assembly to be effective and active and to perform its duties and responsibilities in full. Otherwise, why an assembly, why elections, and why Assembly members called people's representatives elected by the people?

I recall my first meeting with you during your first session after you were elected. At that time, I stressed that you should perform your responsibilities in full. This is because none of us want bogus institutions that are of no use to the people or that fail to do anything good to serve the people. Not one of us is interested in seeing any of our institutions used for propaganda goals. Our interest lies in seeing that our institutions are effective and perform their responsibilities and duties—institutions that do real work. It is good to feel that we can make mistakes. However, better than this is that this feeling should urge us to do more work and accomplish more. If a time comes when we feel that we have reached the point of perfection, this means that we have started our plunge into the abyss.

At the outset of the legislative term of your assembly I instructed you to form the committees you wanted for control and investigation, and not to exclude any institution, ministry, or any other department in the state. You have formed the committees and undertaken control and investigation without facing any obstacles or having anything to sway your convictions. No matter how good your assembly's work, we hope that every future assembly will do more than the previous one. Based on this, we hope that the future People's Assembly will be able to achieve what this Assembly was unable to. You have come to the Assembly backed by your parties and elected by the people. Those who criticize us are not. That is, if they have elections. You were first elected by your parties, which are sectors of the people and the masses; then, you were elected by the people. You, party members or not, run for election. There are also several others, party and nonparty people, and from the National Progressive Front [NPF] and outside it, who are not fortunate enough to win.

The president spoke about current events in the world, particularly in the socialist countries. Referring to questions that are sometimes posed honestly and some other times by opponents, he said: I have the feelings of the average citizen at heart, because this is the true protector that prevents us from making mistakes, and the best guide that keeps us on the right path of work. The right thing is not to do something because others do the same thing. We do it when we become convinced that it expresses our will and convictions and serves our people. Today, just as in the past, we do not do something influenced by others or pressured by specific circumstances. Had the pressures of circumstances and external events steered our work, we would have yielded to external pressures long before.

The president said: If our internal structure had not been very secure, our country would not have been able to hold up as it did. Our internal structure is very secure because we built it with our will and also with our people's will. It was not suggested to us, nor were we ordered by anyone to build it. We have always searched and we will continue to search for the better, and we will benefit from other nations' experiences. However, we take our own conditions into consideration and proceed from our own will and option. We have our own history, our heritage, our national and pan-Arab needs, the nature of our people, and our organizations.

The president then talked about Syria's experience following the Corrective Movement and said: Since then, our decision has been a multiparty system and political pluralism, and our leadership believes that the country's problems in general and the challenges anticipated during the construction process can absorb all the existing parties in the country as well as every national struggler. The leadership also believes that if the largest possible number of citizens and strugglers are involved in the homeland's political, economic, educational, and military battles, the homeland will be stronger.

We do not view matters in terms of unilateral party gains. When the homeland becomes stronger, new gains will be achieved for every citizen in the homeland; consequently, new and larger gains will be achieved for the overall framework of the parties, including strugglers and nationalists. As a result, all these parties will gain.

The president also talked about national unity and said: National unity means the unity of all citizens. This may be theoretical, but it should remain the aspired-to goal. This goal may not be achieved in any country. One hundred percent unity of all the citizens cannot be achieved, but this goal should exist so that we can continue to work to achieve as much citizen unity as possible within this national unity. We have to involve as many citizens as possible in the battle for the homeland. We also should intensify our ambition for national unity and find a place for every citizen within the framework of the Front. I have talked several times about the NPF and said: We should develop, enrich, and reinforce it. Under a collective decision, workers, farmers, and parties joined the NPF. I proposed reinforcing and developing the NPF and its leadership at an early stage when no one talked about fronts. I said that we should think about the best way to achieve further development and reinforcement of the front in order to strengthen national unity. The issue of the front and national unity is a perpetual process, and not a temporary decision.

The president then talked about the economic structure and said: There is no doubt that we have a final and firm view of economics in a socialist country. We have chosen economic pluralism, and we are not at the end of the road. At every stage of the movement, there may be appropriate formulas and even more appropriate ones. Now, we have three economic sectors: the public sector, the private sector, and the joint sector. No citizen in our country can say that he is not allowed to engage in economic activity or that a certain formula was imposed on him to engage in this activity.

As I said to you at the beginning of your Assembly's term, we will encourage the three sectors, and there is a pressing need to involve all the energies of the sons of this country in efforts to develop this country. We know the final picture, and we have never proceeded from the concept that socialism is the coercion of people, but from the concept that socialism ends coercion.

The president also said: We have established a political, authoritative, and official and popular party system. We are satisfied with it, and we have not built it to be despotic. Anyone who wants despotism would not erect such a building; would not seek to strengthen the trade unions of the workers, farmers, women, youth, students, professionals, and educated people; would not strengthen and reinforce the NPF; would not try to achieve national unity and urge everyone to discharge his responsibilities and exercise his powers. The person who established this democratic and popular building will certainly support freedom in the full sense and the noblest definition of the word.

I do not want to say that we are exercising the freedom we want. We always want more and more. We do not fear freedom but fear losing freedom. As citizens, parties, and NPF, we have no quarrel about freedom. We always look for formulas. Freedom means nothing if it is not coupled with the formula of practice. Freedom and formula are one thing, and when one of them is lost, the other is also lost. When the formula dies, freedom dies.

The president then talked about developments in the socialist countries and said: We wish these countries every good. Our friendship with the socialist countries will remain strong and firm, as in the past. Then he talked about relations with the Soviet Union. He said: There is no truth in what is said about tarnishing of our relationship with the USSR. Our relations with the USSR have not changed. I would like to assert that everything between Syria and the USSR is characterized by a spirit of friendship and strong relations which you know and which have existed for many years.

Concluding, the president said: We will develop what we believe needs development in the interest of our country and people. We have the party's congress, the NPF's congress, the youth progress, and the People's Assembly elections ahead of us.

People's Assembly Ends Fourth Legislative Term

JN2702125290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The People's Assembly tonight held the final session of its fourth legislative term under Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, in the presence of Mahmud al-Zu'bi, prime minister; Mahmud Qaddur, deputy prime minister for services affairs; and Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic and ministers' affairs.

At the start of the session Mr. 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah said: Today marks the end of the fourth legislative term, which has witnessed great activity in legislation and scrutiny, in addition to Arab and international activities, which are geared toward serving our just Arab issues.

Mr. Qaddurah added: On this occasion, I would first like to thank all the members—representatives of our good people—who have been loyal to their pledge in an

honorable, manly, and sincere manner, for carrying out their duties and tasks which were entrusted to them by leader President Hafiz al-Asad, the Ba'th Party, the various parties of the Progressive National Front, and our generous people. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi also delivered a speech in which he said: An important legislative stage of Syria's history has passed. This stage was filled with activities, orientations, achievements, and legislation. It was one in a series in which Syria's struggling people have recorded pages which highlighted the major framework of their revolutionary beginning with the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party on 8 March 1963, and their great achievements since the Corrective Movement in 1970, foremost of which was the democratic march, which witnessed the establishment of the constitutional institutions, led by the People's Assembly, and the establishment of popular organizations which paved the way to workers, peasants, women, youth, and all the people's sectors to participate through professional and social organizations in the building of this homeland, which has withstood the fiercest tempests, the most flagitious conspiracies, the most dangerous wars, and the gravest challenges of prosperity and progress. [passage omitted]

Al-Zu'bi added: The People's Assembly of al-Asad's Syria—which comprises representatives from all the people's sectors—has been the representative of the people's authority, the legislative authority, and the live framework which reflected the people's hopes, sorrows, and aspirations. It has also been a rich mine for thousands of pieces of legislation, laws, curricula, and programs, which were prepared, studied, discussed, amended, and then passed. It has also been the safety valve for any wrong legislation, which was rejected. From here, the people were monitoring, directing, impeaching, and also penalizing. All the governments of al-Asad's Syria have addressed this Assembly, which has always inspired them with confidence for work, determination for building, and perseverance to continue with the developmental process. I am fully aware of your efforts, stands, and generosity, by which you have enriched your mission. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Issues Law on Fiscal Year 1990 Budget

JN2702161390 Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 25 Feb 90 p 2

[Text] Damascus, (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad here on Saturday [24 February] issued Law No. 6, dated 24.2.1990, on the state's general budget for the fiscal year 1990, which was approved by the People's Assembly (PA) on 21.2.1990, estimated at a sum of LS [Syrian pounds] 61.875 billion.

The law stated that the Minister of Finance is to provide the relevant instructions for carrying out the rules of the law.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Finance, Mr. Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayini, said the state's general budget for 1990 adhered to the motto of self-reliance through local resources, development and general expenditures guidance, especially the vast steps taken for achieving financial balance in accordance with President Hafiz al-Asad directives and the Ba'th Party's resolutions.

The state's general budget, he said, was issued relatively early this year in order that development plans would be carried out in time, and to secure requirements of national defence in compliance with Syria's national role in defence of the Arab nation.

The Minister added that his Ministry on Saturday issued executive instructions of the state's general budget for 1990. He added he had also issued decisions providing for distributing appropriations for current operations for the state's administrative public sector and documents of the estimated budget of the economic public sector.

Foreign Minister Receives Lebanese House Speaker

JN2602151490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] At noon today, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies. They discussed Lebanese developments.

Al-Shar', Egypt's 'Abd al-Majid Confer on Phone

JN2702215590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2135 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received a telephone call this evening from Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The talks during the telephone conversation centered on relations between the two sisterly countries.

Economy Minister Signs Trade Agreement With Chile

JN2702193490 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1520 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Damascus, 27 Feb (SANA)—A trade agreement was signed here today between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Chile with the aim of developing trade relations between the two countries.

The agreement was signed for Syria by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and for Chile by Alberto Besa Allan, ambassador of the Republic of Chile in Damascus. Delegations from both countries attended the ceremony.

The Chilean ambassador said signing this agreement with Syria is a very important step and will open new doors in the near future for developing many initiatives in the interest of the two peoples. It is also the beginning of developing and enhancing relations of cooperation between the two friendly countries, he added.

The agreement includes 11 articles, the most important of which stipulates that the two sides should adopt all the

necessary steps to facilitate and expand trade between the two countries and that each should accord the other special treatment regarding customs duties, regulations, and measures, whatever their nature might be.

AL-THAWRAH: Arabs Must Ready for 'Coming Battle'

JN2802092690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Feb 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary today on the dangers posed by the emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine and on the need for Arabs to be prepared to confront the coming Zionist danger, AL- THAWRAH says: With the arrival of every Zionist immigrant, tension builds up and the region becomes more volatile and on the verge of a new war that will bring fresh disasters to the world and the region. This requires that the Arab nation's masses get ready, prepare themselves, and mobilize all efforts and resources to confront the new challenge and the coming Zionist danger aimed against the Arab destiny, existence, and future. The reason is that the coming battle with the enemy is one of life or death. There will be no place in this battle for weaklings, and no single Arab will escape this war. First and foremost, it is the battle of to be or not to be.

Afghanistan

Burial Held for 'Martyred' Takhar Governor

LD2702183790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The body of late Brigadier General Elyas, governor and Defense Council chairman of Takhar Province, was buried today on Martyrs' Hill. [passage omitted]

Brig. Gen. Elyas was martyred during a confrontation with the enemy while transporting government aid of basic goods needed by the people of Takhar.

Hekmatyar Says Mujahidin Government Dissolved

BK2802100090 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Peshawar, Feb. 27: Hezb-e Eslami Chief Golbuddin Hekmatyar has said the Peshawar-based Afghan Interim Government (AIG) now stood dissolved after the expiry of its one-year mandate and it no longer could claim representation of the Afghan people.

Addressing a big Hezb-e Eslami rally at Hayatabad on the outskirts of Peshawar Tuesday morning [27 February], he maintained that the six component parties in the AIG have neither shifted their government inside Afghanistan nor initiated steps to hold the promised elections. Describing the AIG as a government on paper only, he remarked that those who sought protection of the Pakistani police even in Peshawar could not be relied upon to liberate Afghanistan.

The meeting was originally planned to show solidarity with the Kashmiris, Azeris, and Tajiks fighting against Indian and Soviet occupation but the speakers devoted most of their time to Afghanistan and the AIG. The organisers alleged that Afghan refugees coming for the rally from different places were stopped by the police on the instigation of the AIG. Slogans chanted from the stage against United States, Soviet Union, AIG and the Kabul regime and in support of the struggle by Kashmiris, Azeris and Tajiks evoked an enthusiastic response from the crowd.

Despite [as published] Mr Hekmatyar, the meeting was also addressed by his deputy Engineer Ubaydullah and other Hezb-e Eslami leaders. The 13 resolutions approved in the meeting rejected ex-King Zahir Shah, demanded an end to all interferences in Afghanistan's affairs, called for genuine elections to a representative Shura on the basis of universal adult franchise, opposed large-scale Mujahidin attacks on cities to save civilians from sufferings, challenged the right of the AIG to exist any longer, backed the elections to the provincial Shura in Konarha in defiance of the AIG decision, condemned the Western countries for conspiring with Moscow to prolong the life of the Kabul regime, rejected the AIG formula for electing a Loya Jirgah, pledged to continue the Afghan Jihad till final victory, and reiterated support for the struggling Kashmiri, Azeri and Tajik freedom fighters.

In his hard-hitting speech, Golbuddin Hekmatyar strongly criticised the AIG in which he was a foreign minister sometime back and said its leaders had lost the urge to fight their common adversary across the border. He said there was no coordination between various AIG ministers and its president or prime minister.

He opined that those opposing genuine polls were thinking only in terms of their vested interests although everybody knew that elections were the lone viable option to iron out differences in Mujahidin ranks and build up a representative government.

The Hezb-e Eslami Chief claimed both Washington and Moscow were opposed to Islam and Afghan Mujahidin and had thereby conspired to install Zahir Shah as Afghanistan's ruler. He said the US was scared of the Islamic renaissance and this was the reason for its support to Moscow to crush the struggle of Azeris and Tajiks in the USSR. He also took India to task for committing excesses against Kashmiri freedom fighters. He backed the decision of the Konarha elders and Mujahidin commanders to hold elections to a Shura despite AIG opposition.

Meanwhle the former AIG minister for law and justice Qazi Najibullah belonging to Hezb-e Eslami in an earlier statement said the AIG stood dissolved after the expiry of its one-year mandate and its failure to fulfil its obligation.

AIG's Konarha Province Election Plan Rejected

BK2702094090 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 27 Feb 90 p 1

[From Rahimullah Yusufzai]

[Text] Peshawar, Feb. 26: Elections for a 100-member provincial Shura in Afghanistan's Konarha Province bordering Pakistan would start on March 1 in defiance of the Peshawar-based Afghan Interim Government (AIG) which has rejected these polls and insisted on holding its own brand of elections.

A spokesman of Maulana Jamilur Rahman's 'Jamiat Dawatul Quran Wal Sunnah Wa Ahle Hadith Afghanistan' informed that the 26-member election commission drawn from all Mujahidin parties had finalised preparations for the Shura elections. He said arrangements were being made to take a group of journalists to Konarha to witness the polls.

Konarha would become the first Mujahidin-controlled province in Afghanistan to hold elections if the exercise is peacefully completed in March. No headway has yet been made in organising the Shura elections announced by the AIG last month. The AIG Prime Minister 'Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf had said elections to the 300-member 'Wolesi Jirgah' (parliament) and 2,175-member 'Loya

Jirgah' would be completed in four months from February to May. The AIG election formula has been rejected by Hezb-e Eslami (Hekmatyar) as well as the nine-party Iran-based Mujahidin alliance and several smaller splinter groups.

According to the election plans for Konarha, its seven woleswalis (districts) would be asked to elect 100 members to the provincial Shura which in turn would vote for a governor and frame laws for the province. Bigger districts like Pech Valley and Asmar would elect 20 and 17 Shura members, respectively, while the rest would be elected in the woleswalis of Asadabad, Sarkano, Chawki, Khewa and Khas Konar.

Two parallel Mujahidin administrations emerged in Konarha when it was 'liberated' on Oct. 11, 1988. The Afghan army's ninth division stationed in Konarha's capital Asadabad, formerly known as Chagha Serai, retreated to Jalalabad enabling the Mujahidin to enter the town.

The Ahle Hadith led by Maulana Jamilur Rahman, a native of Konarha, had named Maulvi Ihsanullah as its governor for the province while the Peshawar-based seven-party alliance nominated Jamiat-e Eslami's Maulvi Gholam Rabbani as the Governor. The alliance was joined by four [as published] smaller parties operating in Konarha led by Maulana Afzal, Qazi Amin Waqad and Maulvi Nasrullah Mansur. Both the administrations tried to extend their writ in Konarha without much success and Afghan refugees in Pakistan stayed back in the camps instead of returning to their liberated province.

The AIG received a jolt sometime back when the joint Shura in Konarha comprising both the Ahle Hadith and the alliance parties refused to accept its nominee Maulana Muhammad 'Ali as the new governor for Konarha in place of Maulvi Gholam Rabbani. Both the men belonged to Prof Rabbani's Jamiat-e Eslami but the Konarha elders and Mujahidin commanders argued that they won't agree to the appointment of someone imposed on them from Peshawar. Their refusal forced Maulana Muhammad 'Ali and his Deputy Hazrat Rahman, affiliated to Hezb-e Eslami (Khalis), to stay in Peshawar as they were unwelcomed in Konarha.

All the parties including the Ahle Hadith are now reported to have endorsed their indigenous election formula instead of the one forwarded by the AIG. The election commission is headed by Maulvi Gholam Rabbani with Haji Rozi Khan of Ahle Hadith as his secretary.

Refugees living in camps in Pakistan have been asked to reach Konarha by March 1 to be able to participate in the Shura elections. Most Konarha refugees live in camps in Dir and Bajaur Agency bordering Afghanistan but some also inhabit far-off camps in Malakand Agency, Swabi and Haripur.

An Ahle Hadith spokesman said ballot papers had been prepared for the polling. He, however, failed to explain as to who were the candidates and what were their party affiliation. He was also unaware of the number of voters, the mode of elections, and the period during which the process would be completed. Whatever the outcome, the coming elections defying the AIG formula would be a setback for the Peshawar-based government of President Prof. Mojaddedi.

Hekmatyar Criticizes U.S. Afghan Policy

BK2502161790 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 25 Feb 90 p 9

[Text] Peshawar—Chief of the Hezb-e Eslami, Golbuddin Hekmatyar has said that the convening of "Loya Jirgah" (Grand Assembly) is basically American plan, because through it they want to impose Zahir Shah on Afghans.

"United States is conspiring against the formation of a strong and central government in Afghanistan and now they want to defame the Mujahidin leaders, and for this purpose a pre-planned conspiracy against them has been started".

Speaking to Afghan refugees at Shamshato camp, 30 kilometres away from Peshawar, Chief of the Hezb-e Eslami said that the main purpose of AIG's [Afghan Interim Government] formation was to replace the puppet regime of Kabul and to form an Islamic government there. But, unfortunately the AIG has failed to fulfill its objectives.

He said that America and Russia have agreed to reinstall ex-King Zahir Shah but he hoped that Afghans will foil their nefarious designs.

He said that current Afghan policies of America is against the wishes of Afghan people. Now American wants to establish contacts with commanders inside Afghanistan, and in this way they are trying to create misunderstanding between Afghan leaders and commanders.

Speaking about proposed election draft of AIG, Hekmatyar said that this proposal is unacceptable and unimplementable for Afghan nation. The Afghan nation should be given the right to choose their government through general elections.

He said that we are supporting the election draft which was proposed by commanders of Konarha Province. Although AIG leaders have asked their commanders that not to take part in these elections, Insha'allah [God willing], other commanders will be tried to fulfil this objective and election will be held on time. [sentence as published]

We want a honourable solution of present Afghan crisis, and are in favour of an effective, stable and constitutional government in our homeland but all these can be gained through holding general elections, he added.

Speaking about recent uprising in Kashmir, he said that we are fully backing our Kashmiri brothers for their struggle of self-determination, and said that Muslim uprising in Kashmir and Azerbaijan have posed a great threat for both superpowers.

Najibullah Addresses Melli Shura 25 Feb

LD2602020190 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1130 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Speech by President Najibullah at the fourth session of the first round of the Melli Shura in Kabul on 25 February—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Esteemed members of the Melli Shura and dear compatriots, I open the fourth regular session of the Melli Shura in the name of God and the wish for the cessation of war and the restoration of peace. First of all, I would like to express my condolences for the demise of Hamdullah, deputy of Sorkh Rud of Nangarhar Province, Sarwarshahi, senator from Bamian Province, and 'Abdul Razaq Tawfiq, senator from Parvan Province, who carried out considerable service for peace during their membership in the country's parliament.

Dear deputies, the period between the end of the third session and the opening of the fourth session of the Melli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan was a special one in terms of the developing domestic and international situation. During that period, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan kept on defending the country against military pressure from abroad and the economic sabotage of the armed extremist opposition, and took a series of measures in various fields which yielded tangible results. The extremist opposition, as in the past, concentrates on operations by its armed groups to exert military pressure and strives to capture one of the border towns, especially Khowst or Jalalabad. They continue killing people for the implementation of their plans and endanger the life of our people by firing long-range rockets.

Despite all the warmonger attempts of the armed opposition and their attempts to cut highways and deprive the residents of cities of essential goods, the Republic of Afghanistan has been able to neutralize their plans and take successful defensive measures against military pressure, especially in Khowst, Qandahar, Nangarhar, main highways, and other parts of the country. Over the past year, besides the confident and legitimate defense of our positions, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has not neglected for a single moment the continuation of national reconciliation and contact with internal commanders, ringleaders, and a number of opposition leaders. It has continued this process at various levels.

As a result of the peaceloving measures of the Republic of Afghanistan, and the sound awareness by some ringleaders and armed opposition internal commanders of the country's situation, more than 90,000 armed and unarmed people, who were previously hostile to the government, have abandoned in various shapes their activities against the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and in some places have ensured security. During that period, 29,630 armed people have joined the government. With 30,220 armed people and 31,145 unarmed people, protocols for cessation of armed activities have been signed and talks for the cessation of fighting and ensuring the security of related areas continues with 16,024 people. Undoubtedly, the role of some of esteemed deputies and senators of the Melli Shura in the process has been outstanding; and we are grateful for their peace-loving efforts to establish contact with some opponents in various parts of the country.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has also carried out a series of economic measures and has placed the transport of essential goods for the residents of Kabul and other provinces at the top of its agenda. Since the month of Sonbola [23 August-22 September], 143,000 tons of essential goods have been carried, despite the fact that military pressure by the extremists, highwaymen attacks, and natural causes have often slowed the process of transport. But proper stores of essential goods have been set up and the distribution of rations to government officials continues. This year's winter passed with relatively less problems, despite military pressure on the highways. The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan paid attention to a number of areas in northeast, central areas, areas in the southwest and northwest through decrees assigning essential goods; and the transport and distribution of goods continues in some areas. You know that recently a large supply convoy arrived in Gardeyz. All those measures decreased the effect of the economic blockade by the armed warmonger opposition and prevented the repetition of last winter's bitter incidents.

Esteemed deputies and senators, the fourth session of the first round of the Melli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan commences when the people of Afghanistan and the world have been led by the developments of the past year to believe that a military solution of the Afghan problem has no prospect and only a political solution can end the pains and sorrows of the people of Afghanistan. Better national and international opportunities have come about for the implementation of this goal. Now, with each passing day, the rightness of the national reconciliation policy and the need for contact, negotiation, and understanding among all Afghan political forces to end war and ensure peace is more accepted.

In consideration of the fact that, as a result of talks among all Afghan political forces, inside and outside the country, an end could be put to the problems of Afghanistan, the Republic of Afghanistan has proposed that in council of representatives of all Afghan political forces, in the presence of the special envoy of the UN Secretary General and the UN Good Offices delegation, be convened in Kabul, Qandahar, or Jalalabad to decide on the method of ending the war and searching for ways to create a broad-based coalition government with the participation of all forces.

In recent days, letters and messages addressed to the leaders of a number of countries, parties, social organizations, and [word indistinct] of a number of countries and to Afghan personalities residing in Europe, the United States, and a number of other countries have been dispatched. In these messages and letters, in the course of analysis in the country, their cooperation and assistance in ending the war and maintaining peace in Afghanistan has been requested. These personalities have also been invited, with a complete feeling of security, to come to the country, see the situations for themselves, and if they wish, to safely return. In consideration of the enhancement of the international standing of the Republic of Afghanistan, [word indistinct] of the basis of the solution of the questions of Afghanistan, could only be solved by (?themselves). Foreign (efforts) and the good offices of a number of countries, which fortunately have been outstanding in recent months, play a role toward speeding up and assisting the process of a political solution of the situation in and around Afghanistan.

However, what is important is the fact that all Afghans, and in particular Afghan political forces inside and outside Afghanistan, through setting aside differences, engage in negotiations under the slogan of defending the high interests of Afghanistan, protecting its independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty, and arrive at an agreement acceptable to all sides. this matter has been outlined in the relations of the guarantor countries of the Geneva accords.

Since events and developments in the country and outside it are moving speedily, the Republic of Afghanistan, in consideration of the realities of Afghan society, has put forward a new proposal: Therefore, we, without waiting for the reply and stand of the leaders of the opposition to the numerous peace proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan, on 15 February this year once again made a series of new proposals as important and practical steps, which could be good bases for dialogue and talks.

These proposals indicate the preparedness of the Republic of Afghanistan for the convocation of a national council of the Afghans inside the country, the declaration and observation of a cease-fire or the postponement of combat operations, the declaration of Kabul-Jalalabad highway as a corridor of peace, and the cessation of firing long-range Scud missiles on cities by the opposition armed groups.

The Republic of Afghanistan has also proposed sending a delegation with a composition acceptable to the opposition from Kabul to Peshawar, Quetta, Tehran, and Europe in order to talk with the opposition concerning the search for political solutions and preparing the ground for the convocation of a council inside Afghanistan. A number of proposals have been dispatched concerning the assessment and control of human rights and the appointment of a separate body for control over the cultivation and processing of narcotics in the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan. The state of the Republic of Afghanistan has proposed that, in the event of acceptance by the opposition groups, a mixed authorized commission be formed to consider the question of Soviet and Afghan prisoners of war in the captivity of both sides. I deem to state that a number of commanders inside the country have consented to the exchange of prisoners and the cessation of combat operations on different levels, as a result of which, during the last few days, a number of individuals have been exchanged.

However, a number of leaders of the groups, without all-around analysis of the proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan have, as before, rejected them; fortunately, however, these proposals have been widely welcomed and supported by the people of Afghanistan and outside the country. The Republic of Afghanistan, despite the stubborn stand of the opposition leaders, has embarked upon a series of certain measures towards implementation of the proposals. A great number of initiatives have been undertaken so far towards peace. We have and shall put forward and implement new initiatives in proportion with the development phases of the policy of national reconciliation, in consideration of the situation in the country and the interests of the people of Afghanistan. The Melli Shura of Afghanistan has the duty to increase the momentum of its activity and to enhance the role of the parliament and its members towards realizing the policy of national reconciliation. In order to realize these duties, the parliament could undertake the following tasks:

—Seeking specific methods for the policy of national reconciliation by every MP in accordance with the specific condition of his constituency.
—Finding effective work methods in the [word indistinct] commissions toward giving further momentum to the activities of the organs of state power and administration.
—Improved organization of contacts and consultations between commissions to the leading authorities of state.
—Increasing the role of international parliamentary commissions in matters of shaping and advancing foreign policy in accordance with national interests.
—Speeding up the process of ratifying laws and, if necessary, the drafting and promulgation of laws by the parliament itself.

The execution of these tasks would enhance the credibility and role of the parliament in the eyes of the people.

Despite the war, the Republic of Afghanistan is determined to go forward toward the expansion and consolidation of the role of all citizens in the country's political, economic, and social life and the [word indistinct] of democracy along with the further consolidation of the principle of legality and independence of [word indistinct] in accordance with the Shari'a of Islam and the [enforced laws] of Afghanistan. Here I would like to draw the attention of the people's representatives to the fact

that the very speedy development of the situation inside and outside the country, parts of the laws which have been enforced in recent years, including some articles in the Constitution, have lost their appropriateness with the new situation. Therefore, in order to prepare the path toward successful implementation of the policy of national reconciliation, it is necessary that the aforementioned articles be reconsidered and be adjusted in line with the new realities. I hope our efforts toward ending the state of emergency are not confronted by the warmongering attempts of the extremists.

We have extensive prospects and important tasks towards deepening the policy of national reconciliation. For this, it is necessary, among other things, to introduce some changes in the framework of the activity of the National Front. In order to further prepare conditions for a coalition in practice and on a different level, necessary changes should be made in the state organs towards the realization of a coalition so that the state would embrace a broad spectrum of forces and the ground for dialogue with other forces inside and outside the country would be prepared. Reconsideration of the organizational structure of the ministries and the state apparatus, as a necessity, come to the fore.

As I have stated before, the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] and the Republic of Afghanistan, despite all pressure and intervention from abroad, is able to defend the country's national sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. However, war and bloodshed continues unabated due to a variety of reasons. In order to put an end to this situation, the collection and unity of forces in support of peace is a must. I do not think the opposition would accept the PDPA with its (?present) aims and program. Of course, we do not ask for the unconditional surrender of the opposition.

Therefore, the PDPA is ready, in proportion with the situation, in order to eliminate all aspects of division, and in order to find common ground, to introduce changes in its action program. The decision on introducing such changes will be taken in a party conference or congress. These changes shall not be only in accordance with the opinions of the party members, but we shall put forward our program to be assessed by all the people of Afghanistan and shall adjust it in accordance with their demand. These changes should be introduced in accordance with the sacred religion of Islam, the high national interests and the national traditions of the people of Afghanistan. The PDPA is proud to be the pioneer of democracy and the maintainer of the rights and freedom of the people of Afghanistan. The party does not want to respond only to the demands of a certain social class or strata, but it should represent the interests and aspirations of all the Afghan people.

Esteemed deputies and senators, I talked in detail to you at the end of the third session and also I talked to esteemed deputies and senators separately. Some esteemed deputies and senators tendered useful and effective views on various aspects of the socio-economic life of the country, which we took under consideration. Preliminary plans have been drafted for a number of proposals, and the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan continues their implementation.

Esteemed deputies, we appreciate the activities of the Melli Shura in various socio-economic and political aspects of the country's life and expect that members of the parliament of Afghanistan shall accelerate their peace-loving activities. I wish you health from God and pray for the success of the fourth session of the Melli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan. Success comes from God.

Bangladesh

PRC Defense Minister Arrives on Goodwill Visit

BK2702155690 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] China's state councillor and minister of national defense, General Qin Jiwei, arrived in Dhaka today on a six-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh. He is leading an eight-member delegation, including the deputy chief of general staff of People's Liberation Army, Lieutenant General Han Huaizhi. Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzam Hussain received them at the airport. Chinese Ambassador Chen Songlu was also present.

The Chinese defense minister said on arrival that the aim of the current visit was to further the mutual understanding and promote cooperation and friendship between Bangladesh and China. Later, he laid floral wreaths at the Jatiya Smriti Soudha [national memorial] in Savar.

Ershad Orders 'Stern' Measures Against 'Miscreants'

BK2702004390 Hong Kong AFP in English 2230 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 26 (AFP)—Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad Monday ordered stern steps against "miscreants and terrorists" linked to Sunday's killing of a student and violence that gripped Dhaka University, BSS [BANGLADESH SANGBAD SANGSTHA—BANGLADESH NEWS AGENCY] news agency reported.

The official agency said the president's orders came at an emergency meeting with the vice chancellors of the country's six universities to discuss the Dhaka University situation following the violence.

Dhaka University was shut Sunday after Shahidul Islam Chunnu, an activist of the opposition Awami League's student wing of the Bangladesh Chatra League (BCL), was shot dead during a pitched battle with rivals of the Jatiyatabadi Chatra Dal (JCD). JCD is the student wing of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party. The vice chancellors urged the government and the political parties to take necessary steps to keep "terrorism" away

from the schools. The university's Vice Chancellor Abdul Mannan was also hurt when he was hit by a stone while paying homage to the dead student.

Mr. Ershad, who dissolved his ruling Jatiya Party's student wing in 1986 and is the chancellor of universities, expressed his deep concern over the incident and condemned the attack on the vice chancellor, the television said. BSS news agency said the president ordered the Interior Ministry to take stern steps against the "miscreants and terrorists" involved in Sunday's incident.

BCL President Habibur Rahman Habib, in an interview with the local daily life newspaper to be published Tuesday, demanded the resignation of Mr. Mannan, saying he had ignored his warnings about such a situation. The Awami League has accused the JCD of the Sunday slaying, a charge the rival group has denied.

India

Spokesman Rules Out UN Intervention in Kashmir

BK2702125690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] India has ruled out allowing any UN intervention in Jammu and Kashmir. Reacting to some reports appearing in a section of the press that a senior UN official will visit the state soon, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that the center's views in this regard are broadly the same as of the state government, which have already appeared in the press.

The announcement of the UN official's visit was allegedly made by UN military observer in Srinagar yesterday when a group of people submitted him a memorandum.

UN Denies Plan To Send Officials

BK2802093490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] The United Nations has denied that there is any proposal to send its officials to Jammu and Kashmir to assess the situation in the Kashmir valley. A senior UN official said in New York that there is no such plan. The announcement of the UN official's visit was allegedly made by a UN military observer in Srinagar on Monday [26 February]. India has ruled out any UN intervention in the state. Informed sources in New Delhi said that all differences with Pakistan can be settled in the spirit of the Simla agreement and no UN mediation will be allowed.

Sikh Leader Injured in Bhatinda Violence

BK2802014690 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] The Akali Dal-Mann chief, Simranjit Singh Mann, has ruled out the possibility of any climb down from the 1973 Anandpur Saheb resolution which formed the basis of his party's demand for a settlement of the Punjab problem. He was speaking to reporters at a hospital in Chandigarh where he was admitted this morning with injuries sustained in yesterday's violence at Bhatinda. Mr. Mann said that three of his party activists were killed and 16 injured in the clash. An official spokesman, however, denied that anybody was killed. He, however, said that a few persons were injured.

Mr. Mann said that there were fundamental differences between his Akali Dal and the group led by the former chief minister, Mr Prakash Singh Badal.

State Elections Begin Under 'Elaborate Security'

BK2702031890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Polling began this morning in eight states and the union territory of Pondicherry to elect 1,610 legislators. Elections to the Gopalganj constituency in Bihar has been countermanded following the murder of an independent candidate, Mr Balram Pandey, yesterday. Assembly polls will now be held in 323 constituencies in the state.

Over 21,000 candidates are in the fray in Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, and Pondicherry. This is the first assembly election in Arunachal Pradesh after it attained statehood 3 years ago. Election is also being held for countermanded three parliamentary and seven assembly constituencies and by-elections for two Lok Sabha and 10 assembly seats in eight other states.

Our correspondent after touring several constituencies report that long queues of voters, mostly women and youth, were seen at polling booths much before the scheduled time of the voting. In Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal pradesh, polling began on a dull note because of the inclement weather. [passage omitted]

Elaborate security arrangements have been made to ensure free and fair polling. The troubled areas have been identified and steps taken to prevent booth capturing. The Election Commission has appointed over 350 observers and senior officers of the commission to oversee the election process. Nearly 500 companies of the central paramilitary forces have also been deployed to help the state administrations.

40 Reported Killed

BK2702135090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1346 GMT 27 Feb 90

[By Anil Penna]

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Feb 27 (AFP)—At least 40 people were killed Tuesday [27 February] in violence as millions of Indians voted in a mini-general election widely seen as a referendum on the performance of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

Thirty-eight people died in police gunfire, street fighting between supporters of rival parties and bomb blasts in which 100 others were injured in the eastern state of Bihar, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

Bihar, which lived up to its reputation for election violence, was one of the eight states which went to the polls, along with the federally administered former French colony of Pondicherry, to elect new provincial administrations.

Police fired to break up clashes at two places, killing three people in the Bihar capital, Patna, where security forces had been armed with orders to shoot trouble-makers on sight, PTI said. Thirty-five others were killed in widespread violence which rocked the eastern state, the news agency said, but no details were immediately available.

Two supporters of Mr. V.P. Singh's Janata Dal (People's Party) were killed in clashes with activists of the Congress (I) Party of his predecessor, Rajiv Gandhi, in the western state of Gujarat, PTI said. Fourteen others were injured. The violence, which included thugs intimidating poll officials, came despite heavy security assured by the deployment of 50,000 federal paramilitary troops who reinforced thousands of local police. Half the troops were posted in Bihar. [passage omitted]

Initial Results Detailed

BK2802091290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Three out of the seven results announced in Pondicherry have gone to Congress-I, while the Janata Dal has established early leads in Gujarat and Orissa, and the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, as the counting of votes in the assembly elections progressed in seven states and the Union Territory of Pondicherry today.

In Himachal Pradesh, the Congress-I and the BJP are reported to be in a neck-to-neck race. In Pondicherry, of the seven results declared in the 30-member assembly, three have gone to the Congress-I, two to the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazagham], and one each to AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] and the Janata Dal. The ruling party in all the states and Pondicherry, which went to polls yesterday, is ahead only in the union territory according to the latest trends available.

In Orissa, the Janata Dal was maintaining its lead in as many as 50 constituencies followed by the Congress-I in five, the CPI [Communist Party of India] in three, and the BJP and the Independents in one each.

In Madhya Pradesh, early trends indicate that the BJP candidates are leading over their nearest Congress-I rivals in over 50 constituencies.

In Gujarat, Janata Dal is leading in 60 constituencies, the BJP in 44, and the Congress-I in 35 constituencies.

In Bihar, trends of seven constituencies are available, out of which the BJP is leading in four and the Congress-I in three. Meanwhile, repoll is being held in over 400 polling stations in Gujarat, Bihar, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. In Bihar, repoll is being held in 325 polling stations. [passage omitted]

Iran

TEHRAN TIMES Urges Release of Hostages

NC2802074090 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY in English 22 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Hostages in Lebanon Are Victims of Western Hegemony"]

[Text] Another gruesome round of infighting has erupted among the Shiite forces in Lebanon. Amal and Hizballah started on a battle with mortars and machineguns yesterday in south Lebanon, thus bringing to an end the halfhearted ceasefire that had come into effect with a great deal of mediation efforts last month.

Is this really all these Muslim forces can do to help the country stand up to the diabolic designs of the Zionist enemy? It is so very disappointing and regrettable.

To make possible a widespread unity of the Lebanese Muslim forces Amal should demonstrate more flexibility. There is at present nothing more urgent and pressing than a united Islamic front. Hizballah too should reciprocate to Amal's flexibility.

In fact, aside from the Zionist threat, the danger posed at the country by the bullying and rebellious Michel 'Awn is so great that Amal and Hizballah should even prepare themselves to help President Al-Hirawi's government in its drive to oust 'Awn. Elimination of 'Awn is in fact the lynchpin to overall unity, curbing separatist moves and restoring peace and calm in Lebanon.

Although the al-Ta'if agreement that led to the coming to power of Al-Hirawi is not satisfactory the necessities and the spur of the time call for Muslim forces' cooperation in establishing Al-Hirawi's government.

Meanwhile Al-Hirawi too should waste no time to amend the constitution and eliminate the current sectarian order. He should do everything he can to ensure the convening of a truly free election as the Lebanese people's vote is all that counts.

Meanwhile all forces active in the Lebanon scene must make efforts to help free all hostages from whatever nationality they might be. The release of hostages is an Islamic, ethical and humanitarian move.

But one thing is sure. In spite of its hue and cry over the fate of the hostages the West does not attach practical value to the issue. Iran's former charge d'affaires Mohsen Musavi and three of the Iranian Beirut embassy staff have been in captivity for years in Lebanon. Their

freedom is as important to Iran as is the release of Western hostages to the West. But carried away by its obnoxious racist attitude the West has only directed its campaign for the release of its own hostages only.

But regardless of the West's propaganda ploys, Muslim forces, out of Islamic and humanitarian considerations, should work to get the hostages free with no precondition. While no one should lose sight of a rightful struggle against the West's hegemonic objectives, Muslim forces should regard the hostages as victims of imperialist policies of the West and make attempts to get them all freed.

It should be noted that hostages have in fact turned out to be a good propaganda cause for the West to justify their misdeeds.

So notwithstanding the very rightful cause of the militant Lebanese forces and the very illegitimate objectives of the West, hostages should be freed on Islamic and humanitarian grounds only. Who knows? Maybe 1990 will be the year for the release of all the hostages.

Tehran, Moscow To Cooperate in Defense

LD2702160590 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27, IRNA—Iran and the Soviet Union have agreed to cooperate in defence area as per a political document inked between the two during the visit of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Moscow last June, Iran's ambassador to Moscow has said.

Naser Heirani-Nobari in an interview printed in the daily RESALAT today said some progress has been made in the agreement and that the main objective of the Islamic Republic is transfer of the technology for manufacturing defensive arms.

Nobari reiterated that Iran seeks a widescale cooperation with the Soviet Union. No delay has taken place concerning the practical progress of the agreement, rather the progress has been speeded up and one of the signs is resumption of natural gas exports to the Soviet Union as of April, he noted.

On Soviet mediation concerning U.N. Resolution 598, Nobari said talks are underway in this regard, and Moscow is making preparations for the tripartite (USSR, Iran and Iraq) session.

"According to my last contacts with the Soviet officials, they would state their proposals for the session in the near future," he added.

As war has two sides, peace too should have two sides, and that peace cannot be achieved unilaterally, he said, adding Iran is seeking an honourable peace which considers interests of both the Iranian and Iraqi peoples. "We have so far taken serious measures in this regard and the world including the Iraqi side has been witness to our goodwill."

Nobari regretting that Baghdad's Ba'athist rulers seem to be insisting on their expansionist plans, warned them against repeating their wrong experiment.

They (Iraqi rulers) cannot achieve anything as long as they stick to their aggressive stands, and their intentions will not come true by the approach they have so far adopted towards the peace talks, he made it clear.

The Iraqi rulers mistakenly imagine or hope to get some concessions at the negotiation table, but their efforts in this respect would only result in the continuation of the no war no peace situation and instability of the region, said the Iranian ambassador.

First of all Nobari believes, the situation would be most harmful for the Iraqi people and soil. "We should wait and see Iraqi rulers realize the fact that when they could not defeat the Iranian people by imposing an eight-year-long war, they cannot do so through non-peaceful methods," he added.

Turning to Soviet Azerbaijan, Nobari said even though the Soviet officials have been told that it is an internal issue, "we do not like to see Muslims killed near our borders."

"We would like to see the issue resolved through right reason and peaceful means, and that's why we do not consider use of force a principle solution," he said.

IRGC To Share 'Military Experiences'

LD2702151290 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27, IRNA—The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) is ready to share with Islamic armies and movements across the globe the military experiences it has acquired during almost 8 years of the Iraqi-imposed war.

Addressing a press conference, IRGC Deputy Commander Rahim Safavi said that IRGC equipped with modern technology enjoyed 'a high degree of combat readiness coupled with valuable military experiences.'

IRGC personnel, in addition to carrying out a total of 106 large-scale military operations during the imposed war, have proved their alertness by foiling in time conspiracies of the internal and external enemies against the Islamic republic, he said.

IRGC air, ground and naval forces are all equipped with modern military technology especially missile systems, Safavi noted.

In order to procure its needed skilled manpower, IRGC has made large investments in a military academy named after Imam Hoseyn (PBUH) [peace be upon him], the 3rd imam of Prophet Mohammad's (PBUH) household, he said.

Coming Thursday is the birthday anniversary of the martyr of Karbala' Imam Hoseyn (PBUH) an event celebrated in Islamic Iran as 'IRGC Day.'

UN Envoy Refutes Reports of Human Rights Abuses

LD2602190290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] According to a report of the Central News Unit, the special envoy of the UN Human Rights Commission, Mr. Galindo Pohl, who visited Iran for a period of eight days during the last days of the month of Dey [21-29 Jan 1990], submitted his report openly to the Human Rights Commission [HRC]. The report in part, referring to the point that terrorist actions against the Islamic revolution have had very destructive effects, says that he [Pohl], in his visit, received many letters from families of the victims of terrorism together with statements of the terrorists threatening to assassinate the people. The number of the documents, and remarks of the victims and statements, all indicate the depth of the tragedy.

The special envoy of the HRC described as baseless the allegation that a number of political dissidents were executed under the label of narcotics smugglers. He states quite sincerely that in his opinion these allegations have been vague and based on conjectures, and are totally refuted.

In another part of the report, the special envoy praised the humanitarian measures of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] in its treatment of the offenders in reducing their sentence or pardoning them.

In connection with the situation of religious minorities in the IRI, Galindo Pohl met and conferred with the deputies of the minorities at the Islamic Majles. He visited the Armenian cultural and social center and also a church in Tehran, and studied the life-style, religious rituals, and activities of the minorities. He also held talks with the editor of the Armenian weekly magazine. After these investigations, the special envoy announces that the Armenians and other minorities perform their religious activities freely.

Another part of the report is devoted to the inspection of the prison and talks with the governor of prisons. During this inspection the special envoy became familiar with the prison regime in the IRI, which is based on the principle of rehabilitation and not revenge. He was informed of the prison's facilities, such as preliminary and intermediate levels of education, the existence of radio and television receiver sets, magazines, prison workshops, and also methods of rehabilitation, and the presence of active experts in these fields, including social workers, psychiatrists, and others. Afterwards he visited all wings of Evin Prison and held talks with several members of the minigroups [imprisoned members of Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization etc]. The special envoy afterward inspected the women's prison and asked questions on their situation. On the basis of their answers—given to the special envoy himself—the conditions of the court and the prison were described as natural and normal; the women have neither been tortured nor treated poorly in the prison, and they can easily use the facilities mentioned above.

After finishing the inspection of the prison, in the prison office where catalogs are kept, the special envoy presented a list of names of several prisoners, which he had prepared in advance, and demanded to meet them privately. On the basis of the report, all those who were met said that they hoped to be pardoned soon.

Another part of the report says that the special envoy met a number of individuals, who had been named by minigroups as executed persons, and personally inspected, compared, and confirmed the identity cards and features of four of them.

In connection with the legal and judicial issues, the report indicates that in view of the many meetings held between the special envoy and the judicial authorities of the IRI, he found the opportunity to become familiar with the method of implementing justice and appeal procedure in tribunals, particularly in the revolution courts, and became acquainted with the bail system in this connection. He also welcomed the article of the Constitution, which stresses the need to appoint defense lawyers in courts. Mr Galindo Pohl declares that during this visit he had the opportunity to meet and confer with the esteemed authorities of the judicial, legislative, and executive powers, as a result of which he gained a highly valuable understanding of Islamic principles, the source of inspiration of the Islamic Republic system.

He further adds that within the limit of the time available, he had private and public meetings with various strata of the people with different and opposite views, and he became familiar with their views on various issues.

In the concluding part of the special envoy's report, while expressing gratitude for the IRI's highly constructive and valuable approach, he announced willingness to undertake a comparative study of Islamic laws with international laws, particularly the principles of human rights, and he expressed hope that this cooperation will continue. He also expressed hope that in the future he will be able to offer more appropriate answers to certain other allegations, through exchange of correspondence.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Stresses Importance of Koran

LD2302174690 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Excerpts] On the auspicious anniversary of the prophetic mission of the Prophet of God, the Prophet Mohammad, peace and God's mercy be upon him and his clan, the seventh international competition on memorizing and reciting the Koran opened at Hoseyniyeh-e Esshad this afternoon with a speech by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Sixty reciters of the Koran from Iran and reciters from 40 other countries attended.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in a speech during the inaugural ceremonies, described in detail the wonders of the Koran, said no day in history is as significant as the day of the prophetic mission as datum for change and evolution. [passage omitted]

Referring to the propaganda conspiracy by Western media and noting that if the Koran had contained an error, those propaganda giants would have raised a hue and cry, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Such a firm document exists among Islamic nations. But instead of following the line of the Koran in unison, the Islamic nations are divided.

Referring to the events in Soviet Azerbaijan and the Muslims' neglect of that movement, he said: Muslims are afraid to talk about Soviet Jews. Those same Persian Gulf littoral states, which are considered important powers in the world because of their oil and gas resources, could throw Israel in the dustbin of history, using that same lever. But instead of uniting, they join the world of blasphemy and abuse the Muslims.

Referring to the fact the Islamic Republic of Iran is as oppressed as the Koran, he said: This nation has put up with all the pressure for the sake of the Koran. Those Iraqis imposed the war on us was because of the Koran [as heard]. The whole of imperialist media place themselves behind the unfounded book, "The Satanic Verses", because of the Koran and to malign the Prophet and the Koran.

The president lastly pointed out: Whenever a movement has grown in the name of Islam, they have attacked and defeated it. It was for the first time that, thanks to the leadership of his holiness the imam and the alertness of the nation and the clergy, the government of the Koran triumphed. This vestige of God's blessings is clear for the future of all. God willing, this base of Islam will be able gradually to return the sovereignty of Islam to the Islamic society in the world and attain the worthy position of the Koran in the human society. [passage omitted]

Yazdi Upholds Rushdie Decree, Assails UK

LD2802105290 Tehran IRNA in English 1013 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28, IRNA—Head of the Judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi Tuesday stressed that the leadership and officials of the Islamic Republic unanimously "defend the late imam's death decree against Salman Rushdie" adding, "there is no difference in their stand over this issue."

Speaking at the end of a session of judicial officials here, Ayatollah Yazdi further added: "Salman Rushdie, (author of the blasphemous book 'The Satanic Verses') by insulting sanctities of the world Muslims has in fact violated international regulations."

He noted that statements made by the Iranian officials in reference to Salman Rushdie should not be interpreted as Iran's indifference towards international regulations.

"The Islamic Iran respects all these regulations," Ayatollah Yazdi further stressed.

In a separate meeting the same day with members of the "Committee to Support Iranian Students Against British Oppression," he termed expulsion of Iranian students and nationals from Britain "a violation of international laws and regulations."

He noted that hostility of British Government against Islam and the Islamic Republic would no doubt increase opposition of the world Muslims towards Britain and mar international relations with that country.

As for the late imam's death decree against Rushdie, Ayatollah Yazdi stressd that it was a religious verdict accomplishment of which is duty of all Muslims, adding that nothing could hinder its enforcement.

Mohtashemi Discusses Rushdie, Khomeyni's Decree

NC2702141190 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 17 Feb 90 p 18

[Article by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi: "The Imam's Decree—Combating Satanic Diplomacy With Pure Islam"]

[Text] On the anniversary of the historic decree of Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be sanctified—regarding the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses" and its apostate mercenary author, and the defeat of the conspiracy by world apostasy in such a massive cultural onslaught, once again the audacious and malicious British Government is in the forefront of all diabolical power and is testing its satanic villainy against Islam.

The British Government and the Western and Zionist mass media in particular embarked on a new experiment with the idea that, following the demise of the imam, may his soul be sanctified, the edict of the imam had assumed the form of a ruling and personal opinion of an individual in the world of Islam. In the absence of the imam, they presumed that there had been a change in perspective, especially in the world of politics and diplomacy.

This was done in circumstances when this measure was not merely an opinion based on jurisprudence or a decree based on expert knowledge, but a divine injunction which was promulgated by the leader of the Islamic revolution and the guardian of the Muslims' cause. The implementation of this injunction is binding on all Islamic canonists and emulators of other religious scholars. So as soon as a Muslim gains access to Rushdie, he will execute him, God willing.

Following the demise of the late imam, may God be pleased with him, the British Government arrested Muslim Iranian students and subjected them to torture

without any reason. On two separate occasions groups of four and nine students were expelled in contravention of British law. For many months the British Government has also kept the Muslim student Kowkabi incarcerated, subjecting him to mental and physical torture and cruelty. Every time a court is rigged up, the British police request a postponement on the pretext of not having complete evidence or documents for the case. In addition, the British mass media began to attack his eminence the imam, may God be pleased with him. These attacks were warded off by the timely, sagacious, and categorical stance of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, on the validity of the execution decree against Salman Rushdie and the need for its implementation. This infused new life into the world body of Muslims and the unholy plot of the enemies was foiled.

At this juncture it is necessary to throw light on some aspects of the issue:

1. Salman Rushdie belongs to an Indian Muslim family. He migrated to England at the age of 13 and acquired British nationality. He completed his higher studies at Cambridge. Rushdie is a member of the British Film Institute and a member of the advisory board of the Institute of Contemporary Arts as well as a member of the Royal Society of Literature. It is worth pondering on the choice of Rushdie as a Muslim bereft of any personality for the setting up of the scenario of the book "The Satanic Verses" by an enemy which has always used mercenaries to inflict blows on nations.

2. Salman Rushdie is not merely an author, nor is his book merely his personal work. He is part of the trend of world apostasy which has risen up for a major onslaught against the rich Islamic culture. It is for this reason that on the incitement of the Western Zionists, Rushdie received an advance payment of half a million pounds and his pen moved under the protection of the complicated network of British intelligence. Later it transpired that this action and movement have the support of all the West European countries, the United States, and the Eastern bloc countries. Thus Rushdie is the continuation of the trend of world apostasy and infidelity which prevails in the world.

3. It would be worthwhile to contemplate the conditions prevailing in the world in the era preceding the publication of "The Satanic Verses." The colonialists and the infidel systems of the world had entered the foray a long time ago, infiltrating the Islamic and Third World countries by using mercenary regimes for the defacement and distortion of Islamic facts. By employing mercenary regimes, such as the shah's regime in Iran and the Saudi regime in Hejaz, they embarked on using Islam as a weapon for greater domination by foreigners, instead of projecting it as an anti-apostate, emancipating ideology, opposed to tyranny over humanity, the oppressed, and the deprived, which is in line with the basic principles of the pure Islam.

The elements used to justify these deviations were the influential but ignorant clerics of the court who rationalized such atrocities by attaching epithets to the rulers such as "Kings are the Shadows of God." The victory of the Islamic removed the veil from the visage of the distorted Americanized Islam. In order to combat the Islamic revolution, the United States resorted to various tactics. These tactics included the use of grouplets, the sowing of discord between the Sunnis and the Shiites, direct military intervention, a coup attempt by its agents in the Armed Forces, the war imposed through the servile Iraqi regime, and, finally, in the hope of attaining a defeat for the revolution, the acceptance of Resolution 598. By the imam's guidance, however, the Islamic revolution was transformed into an ideology, a superior dynamic system which shone like the sun. The continuation of this revolution exposed the hideousness of the enemies of humanity and the rulers who were the lackeys of the superpowers in the Islamic countries.

In the last two years of his life, his eminence the imam strove to explain the pure Muhammadan Islam and to remove the veil from the repulsive face of Americanized Islam. It was this strategy of Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the revolution, which incurred the intense opprobrium of the Satanic powers. It was on this basis that in 1989 world arrogance reached a consensus with international Zionism that no success could be obtained by means of the defilement of Islam or even a physical contest against it, and they agreed that it should be uprooted.

If this demonic design had materialized, there would of course be no further need to battle against the Muslim nations of Iran, Palestine, Lebanon, and Afghanistan, the Muslim republics of the Soviet Union, and other deprived Muslim nations. The Islamic ummah which poses a serious danger to the camp of world apostasy would have metamorphosed into an indifferent and inert entity.

In view of this, Islam and humanity are pitched against an infidel system opposed to Islamic values which is dominating the world, and there is no solution except to adopt a belligerent approach. Today it is not Salman Rushdie's face that is hidden behind the book "The Satanic Verses," it is the face of the camp of world apostasy, spearheaded by the United States and directed by Great Britain. The world of Islam and the cells of Islamic resistance [Hastehha-ye moqavemat-e Eslami] should take steps to dismember it.

It was thus that his eminence the imam had perceived that the existence of humanity and Islamism in the world were in danger of an extensive cultural onslaught by the diabolic system and world apostasy, and he remained steadfast against it with all his might. The audacious and atheistic British Government and its supporting regimes should know that Muslim nations will never forgive their greatest sin and that of all those governments and political and nonpolitical personalities which have been

part of this plot or have had any role in the publication and distribution of the book in any way whatsoever.

This is divine retribution and will be carried out against them as well. I shall conclude my remarks with some warning remarks by his eminence the imam, may God be pleased with him: "We can deduce the vindictiveness of the Western world against the world of Islam and its teachings from this very point. They are not concerned with the defense of an individual, but of an anti-Islamic trend, opposed to Islamic values which has been initiated by the Zionist, American, and British agencies, and in sheer stupidity and haste, they have pitched themselves against the world of Islam." (From the historic message by the imam to the clergy of 20 March 1988)

With hopes for the triumph of the oppressed over the arrogant.

***Opinion Divided Over Judgment Against Rushdie**

90OI0170A London KEYHAN in Persian
15 Feb 90 pp 1-2

[Text] Two days after Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the "leader" of the Islamic Republic, emphasized in the Friday prayers sermon this week in Tehran that "the decree of the imam concerning the writer of the irreligious book, 'The Satanic Verses,' remains in effect and must be implemented," Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani proposed certain conditions in London to put a peaceful end to this problem.

While the decisive tone of Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i concerning the implementation of Khomeyni's decree to kill Salman Rushdie caused an immediate and serious reaction in the Western societies, particularly in the government circles and groups concerned with freedom of expression in England, the proposal for a peaceful solution to this problem by Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani revealed a serious gap among the religious leaders in Iran over this issue.

After the emphasis by Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i over the decree calling for the killing of Salman Rushdie, British Prime Minister Mrs. Thatcher immediately condemned Khamene'i's statements, and the British Foreign Office, also condemning Khamene'i's threat against a British citizen, announced its interest in improving relations with Iran.

The Speech of Ayatollah Kani in London

Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani, who lives in London, in a public speech on Sunday proposed three conditions to resolve the Rushdie issue. He said: The Islamic Republic wishes a peaceful end to this problem, and if:

1. Any sort of reprint of "The Satanic Verses" is stopped and the existing copies on the market are collected,
2. The British government apologizes to Muslims for supporting Salman Rushdie,
3. Salman Rushdie emigrates from England to another country,

[as published] this problem will be resolved.

In his speech, most of which was supposed to be devoted to praising and honoring the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Kani discussed "The Satanic Verses" and pointed out to those present and the reporters: They "should not consider my words as the position of the Islamic Republic. Rather, I am speaking here merely as a cleric."

Concerning Salman Rushdie's book, he said: "I must say that Salman Rushdie's book is not essentially scholarly. It is not a valuable book either, and does not warrant a scholarly or philosophical analysis. This book contains nothing but literary issues that are only understood by English speakers, and an artist who considers himself a literati has made impolite statements in it. A person lacking in both Eastern nobility and Western culture has written a book which certainly is an insult to all that is sacred to Islam. This book must be recalled."

Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani then referred to the popularity of "The Satanic Verses," calling its publication a "product of the propaganda noise" of Western governments. He added: "Had this book been published and distributed as other ordinary books are, it would not have been an important issue. But we witnessed that this book was published with a lot of noise and promoted by the mass media."

To explain the reaction of Ayatollah Khomeyni against "The Satanic Verses," which took place six months later, he said: "Hence, the imam did not say anything in the beginning. The imam was silent for six months afterwards. He was informed even about the news reports on this matter, but he refused to react and said, 'First the content of the book must be studied.' Secondly, he saw there was so much noise in England at a time when our relations with England and France were supposed to improve and we wanted to strengthen these relations. But we did not know that in this case, too, political lines were in play to ruin these relations."

Then, speaking about the interest of the Islamic Republic in expanding relations with the West, Ayatollah Kani said: "We are Muslims and do not want to be at war with anybody. Do not blame us. We openly announce that except in regard to relations with Israel, South Africa, and the United States, which of course are suspended, we intend to have strong relations. I state openly that we need them, both materially and spiritually. We do not intend to live behind barbed wire, but neither can we accept insults against what we hold sacred.

"In a country in which when someone runs into another, he rectifies the matter by saying a simple 'sorry,' he must also apologize to Muslims. We do not want to make Islam victorious through executions. We respect human life. Killing one human being hurts the whole society."

"The decree of the imam cannot be nullified. It is not a decree of battle, it is a religious decree. But problems that can be resolved must be pursued. I say to a country that intends to establish relations that this man should go

and get lost somewhere else. This Salman Rushdie you say is a respectable human being. How can one person be equated with one billion Muslims? Why should what he holds sacred be considered sacred while what we hold sacred is not?"

"Do you think you are only dealing with Iranians? You do not understand the beliefs of the Muslim nations. You seem to think this is the world of 300 years ago, when you would take military expeditions to take over colonies."

"The world has changed. People have changed. You have not yet properly understood our revolution."

"I will conclude my statements with this sentence: We do not accept coercion."

At the end of Ayatollah Kani's speech, one of the ladies present, who was not permitted to ask a question aloud because she was not veiled, asked Mahdavi-Kani in a written question: "After so many insults, will it be enough for England to just say 'sorry'? Then, what about the imam's decree?"

Ayatollah Kani responded: "If they come and truly apologize, there will be no problem. After all, every quarrel must end and be resolved some day and cannot go on forever. I think that the British usually say 'sorry' in secret, but they will have to say it in the open."

Mohtashemi Discusses Jewish Immigration Issue

NC2602165390 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Feb 90 p 20

[Political commentary by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi: "East-West Collusion in the Immigration of Jews to Occupied Palestine"]

[Text] The world today is witnessing profound developments which are determining the fate of mankind. In the east, an atheistic Marxist ideology based on the negation of virtue and religious beliefs is disintegrating and the people there are breathing a new atmosphere. This comes at a time when polytheistic arrogance in the West and America continues to cast its sinister and wretched shadow over the oppressed Arab nations and the countries of the Third World as it has for centuries.

The victory of the Islamic revolution under the leadership of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, weakened the bases of the oppressive American and Western system and was a great experience for oppressed nations. The Palestinian intifadah was another recent heavy blow dealt to the rotten pillars of the wretched system ruling the oppressed world. This uprising, inspired by the Islamic revolution, and the dismantling of these pillars by the Muslim Palestinian nation is all the more shattering because Palestine and Jerusalem are regarded by all Muslims as the first qiblah. In the last moments of its filthy life, arrogance has decided to annihilate the Islamic nation, culture, and religion as well as Palestine.

The sending of Soviet and European Jews to the occupied Palestinian territories is a plot by world arrogance and Zionism headed by America. Disappointed over its inability to quell the uprising of the Muslim Palestinian nation and stifle the shout of "God is great" in Palestine despite all its murderous machinations, world blasphemy hatched a plot to annihilate Islam and the Muslims by sending about 1 million Soviet and East and West European Jews to the occupied territories within the next five years. This plot seeks a repetition of what happened in the fifties and sixties when some two million Palestinians were expelled from their cities and villages by the occupying regime and became refugees in various Arab countries where they were housed in camps. Now they want the rest of the Palestinians to suffer a similar fate. This plot by the East, the West, and world Zionism seeks to displace the native population and the risen Muslims from Palestine and create a Greater Israel. This can be seen by the recent remarks by Yitzhaq Shamir, prime minister of the regime occupying Palestine, that in view of the mass immigration of Soviet and European Jews, the plan for the creation of a Greater Israel will be implemented.

The world is witnessing with disbelief the immigration of tens of thousands of Jews from the Soviet Union to Palestine each month. With the realization of this plot, in which the new Soviet leadership is also involved, the Muslims of the world may soon witness the disappearance of Palestine and holy Jerusalem from the map of the Islamic world, which would be tantamount to cutting out the heart of Islam from its body.

What should be done? How should this dangerous trend be confronted? The responsibility that today rests on the shoulders of Muslim nations is heavier than ever before. Islam, holy Jerusalem, Palestine, and its Muslims, which have been placed as sacrifices on the altar of blasphemy, have pinned their hopes on the one billion Muslims headed by the Islamic Republic and the revolutionary Muslims of Iran. The combatant people, the Hezbollah forces, and Islamic resistance of the world—these strong arms of Islam—must rise to neutralize and thwart this great plot. Thus, I draw the attention of the Islamic nations to the following points:

1. The oppressed nations which are under the domination of the East and West are well aware that Islam is the religion of peace and freedom and that all the efforts of the Islamic ummah are directed toward liberating themselves and mankind from the domination of the world devourers.

2. The heads of the Islamic countries should fulfill the aspirations of the Muslim nations and take a decisive and responsible position toward all countries which are in one way or another involved in this plot.

3. In view of the fact that the lifeline of the West and the East lies in the Islamic countries of the Middle East, these countries can use this weapon to make arrogance regret its deeds.

4. Islamic resistance cells throughout the world, together with the oppressed masses, should protest this criminal act and, while supporting the just rights of the Palestinian nation, be a deterrent factor in the implementation of this plot.

5. Usurping Israel is like a cancerous tumor not only in the heart of Islam but also in the body and soul of mankind. Supporting and strengthening Lebanon's Hizballah and Islamic resistance and the Islamic jihad of Palestine will enable them to become an element which can accelerate the removal and uprooting of this cancerous tumor.

6. Muslims around the world should carry out their Islamic and humanitarian mission by reacting appropriately and voicing their collective protest against the horrific plot and crime perpetrated by arrogance and Zionism against the oppressed Palestinian nation.

7. The time has come for the PLO to put an end to its compromising policies with the United States and the Zionist enemy and to respond to the voice of oppression of the Palestinian people. It should rise, at the least within the framework of its oath to liberate Palestine, and mobilize its vast potential for this purpose. The Palestinian forces should purge themselves of American and Israeli infiltration elements and put an end to their disgraceful, abominable, and compromising stand because the liberation of Palestine can be achieved only through the path of God.

8. Unfortunately, the dimensions of this treacherous and horrific action by world arrogance has not only not been studied and clarified in many parts of the world, which explains the absence of a suitable reaction, but it has also not received the necessary attention in the Islamic Republic. However, by writing about the dimensions of this great world plot against Islam and the Muslims, the press can inform the public about the consequences of this crime and thus create the necessary sensitivity.

With the hope that the oppressed will win over world arrogance.

Comments on Soviet Position

NC2602213190 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Feb 90 p 20

[Political commentary by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi: "Transferring the Plan for the Immigrant Jews' Settlement to the Security Council—a Useless, Vicious Circle"]

[Text] Pressured by public opinion, the Soviet leadership shifted the issue of the settlement of Jews in areas that were occupied in 1967 and Israel's violation of international laws to the UN Security Council. And, as the saying goes, it put the ball into the Security Council's court.

The vicious circle of the Security Council and the United Nation's resolutions on Third World countries, and especially on Palestine and Lebanon, all have one outcome: They are all useless. They ridicule all deprived and oppressed nations and they invalidate all the just rights and existence of nations. Thus, they forward the objectives and policies of the superpowers, especially against the Muslim nations. The clearest example of this uselessness can be seen in the fact that the fate of the oppressed Palestinian nation has become entangled with the resolutions and decisions of the Security Council and the United Nations.

The fate of the oppressed nation, which has been the topic of discussions in the winding corridors of the United Nations and the Security Council and in their open and closed sessions for 40 years now, is discussed anually. A resolution is then issued and ultimately vetoed by the West and America. And what is not vetoed because of the pressures by public opinion is very easily trampled on by Israel with its refusal to conform.

The tragic tale of the Palestinians is like a dark but very revealing picture. It is a black smear on humanity, and a lesson for future generations. The Kremlin leadership's complaint to the Security Council about Israel is also one of the strange phenomena that "makes a mother who is bereaved of her child to laugh."

The immigration of the Soviet Jews and their settlement in occupied Palestine is the implementation of a multidimensional plot. This horrific plot against the Islamic territory of Palestine and the fate of its Muslim nations took form after collusion between the superpowers and Zionism. The implementation of only the first part of this plot which has been assigned to the Kremlin leadership is in itself a serious threat to the very existence of Palestine and of Jerusalem. Why aren't the Security Council, the Soviet leadership, and the Human Rights Organization thinking about ways to return the four million Palestinian refugees to their homes?

If the Soviet leadership were truly worried about the sinister plot by the regime occupying Palestine, it could have practically prevented the materialization of the plan to settle the immigrant Jews in the occupied territories, the rendering of Palestinians homeless in their own land, and the formation of a great Israel by merely having refused to carry out the first part of the plan. Thus, the need to complain to the Security Council would not have existed.

Complaining to the Security Council and shifting the issue of the settlement of the immigrant Jews—these unwanted guests—which will ultimately lead to further usurpation of Palestinian territory will be yet another topic for the closed circuit of the Security Council. It will be yet another scenario for its repetitious and horrifying puppet shows performed by the ever-present superpowers and Zionist elements. The audience of these shows is the spineless members of the council who have to watch these repetitive shows over and over again. The Soviet leadership is directly involved with America and Zionism in the compilation of the plan as well as in the

implementation of its first part. Naturally the world is once again seeing the hand of criminal America emerging from the sleeve of the Soviet Union in sending Jews to the occupied territories, in annihilating Palestine and holy Jerusalem, and in forming a great Israel.

The responsibility for the consequences of this treachery against mankind and the Muslim and oppressed Palestinian nation rests on the shoulders of the Soviet leadership and of the leaders of America and of the West.

All those elements which, with the help of the superpowers' satanic views, cast the population in the Third World and especially in the Islamic world into bondage neglect the fact that the world of Islam is now like a volcano and that when it erupts, it will destroy the colonialist powers and the superpowers. The leaders of America and of the Soviet Union are sitting on the mouth of this volcano. It is the will and firm determination of the nations that will have the last say.

With hopes that the oppressed will win over the oppressors.

USSR Cautioned Over Soviet Jews' Emigration

LD2702155890 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27, IRNA—The exodus of Soviet Jews to the illegal Zionist entity will certainly not benefit Moscow, said a Persian daily today.

"As suppression of Muslims mounts in occupied Palestine the exodus of Jews will not the least help solve the problems of the Soviets but will instead harm the feelings of one billion Muslims throughout the world," warned KEYHAN.

It said, the West and specially the United States is trying to give "tantalizing promises" to Moscow in order to push the Soviets back from their present political bastions.

It is a bid to transform Moscow into a U.S. ally for fighting the universal wave of Islamic revival, and thereby pit the Russians against the Islamic Republic in spite of the improving relations between Iran and the Soviet Union, added KEYHAN.

"Ours is the era of Islamic resurgence," said the daily, "which marks the end of contentious challenges on Muslim lands by the colonialists. The world is thirsty for truth and justice which are to be found solely in true Islam."

The press in the Islamic Republic has heavily come out against the influx of Soviet Jews to Palestine, where the undesirable migrants are taking over Muslim lands and houses.

Earlier this week, the Persian daily had cautioned the Soviets that the Muslim world cannot remain indifferent to the issue.

It advised Moscow not to load "the bullet called the Russian Jew into the gun of Zionist expansionism" in view of the imminent clashes that are bound to result between the indigenous Palestinian Muslim population and the uninvited guests.

Azerbaijanis Chant Islamic Slogans by Aras River

LD2602182290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] According to Central News Unit's report from Urumiyeh, once again about 5,000 Azerbaijanis, residing on both sides of the Aras River, gathered yesterday afternoon on the southern and northern banks of that border river—at a location called Sanam-Bolaghi, situated north of Pol-e Dasht—and chanted Islamic slogans.

Paper Criticizes Soviet Actions in Central Asia

NC2302133590 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 18 Feb 90 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "The Link Between Weapons and an Open Political Atmosphere"]

[Excerpts] The agitation and developments in the Eastern bloc appears to have spread to the Muslim-inhabited Soviet republics. The situation in the Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, and Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republics reveals the turbulence seething at the core of that society.

The Kremlin leadership resorted to the use of military force to crush the Muslims and attempted to depict them as coupists and secessionists. It portrayed the Muslims as "a handful of vagrants" who resort to vandalism. [passage omitted]

The Azerbaijan phenomenon and the incidents in Baku were a bitter experience for Soviet Muslims and proved to them that the Kremlin leadership's takes starkly contrasting approaches to the Asian and European republics, especially in those areas where the Muslims are seeking to revive their Islamic identity.

Initially it appeared that the Kremlin leadership's adopted a ruthless approach toward the Baku incidents because it was taken by surprise, but the repetition of this approach in the city of Dushanbe, the capital of the Tajik Republic, clearly shows that, sadly, the Baku incidents were not an exception but the rule for handling Soviet Muslims.

One cannot say that the incidents in Tajikistan took Moscow by surprise. The repetition of the situation once again proved that from the outset, "glasnost" was merely an overture to woo the West and was intended solely for the European republics. [passage omitted]

Nations today are impatiently seeking freedom and their popular identity. They do not even hesitate to sacrifice

their lives to shorten their path to freedom. It is this phenomenon which should bring home to all the seriousness of the issue.

The feelings of nations which have been under heavy tyranny for the past 70 years cannot be crushed by vicious actions by military forces now that they have breathed the winds of freedom. Even if they are quelled for the moment, this will not be a satisfactory long-term solution to the complicated problems of Soviet society. [passage omitted]

The Kremlin leadership must treat all nationalities in Soviet society equally and refrain from any kind of discrimination between the citizens of the Asian and European republics. In this way, it will be better able to instill confidence and calm among the Soviet peoples and to use them as a strong base in implementing its plans and policies.

In the political field as well as the social sphere, the Soviet Union is confronted with a host of problems and obstructionism by rival elements and factions. It would therefore not be logical to attempt to control the situation by opening fire at the people and putting itself in confrontation with them. It will only "defeat its own ends" in this way and undermine its own interests by its own hand. This is not in accordance with the wishes of Mr. Gorbachev and his "cadre of faithful associates" and will not serve their interests.

Baku TV Program Teaches Persian Language

NC2302135390 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 18 Feb 90 pp 2, 7

[Text] Ardabil (East Azerbaijan Province) (IRNA)—The Baku-based daily "AZERBAIJAN," banned under a state of emergency, got permission to be published as of yesterday, Baku radio reported Friday. "AZERBAIJAN" is among the three dailies banned by the martial law administrator of Baku, the capital of the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, after the recent unrest erupted in the city.

The radio also reported that all military communiques already released by the martial administration were to be issued by the Interior Ministry of the Azerbaijan Republic from yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Baku television began broadcasting educational programs teaching the Farsi alphabet Thursday evening as a part of a scheme to familiarize Azerbaijani Muslims with the Persian language and literature. The programs teach how to write and read Persian words as well as writing Turkish words with the Farsi alphabet.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Education Officials

LD2702131190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Simultaneous with the 11th anniversary of the establishment of the educational affairs department by the martyrs Raja'i and Bahonar, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today addressed a gathering of more than 5,000 officials of Tehran province's educational affairs department at Shahid Shirudi sports stadium.

Referring to the sacred objectives of setting up the educational affairs department and the revolutionary mission of this cultural institute, he said: During the first years of the revolution, most managers of the revolution were also educational managers, and the martyrs Raja'i and Bahonar were the two examples of those managers; and this gathering of the sincere forces is a manifestation of the ideas from those days.

Continuing his remarks, referring to the positive presence of the educational officials and particularly the youths in the midst of those forces who are continuing their studies [primary school teachers who are also attending higher degree courses in universities], the president said: Science is at the service of the arrogants today, and not at the service of the deprived; one of the serious shortages facing the world of education today is the failure to pay attention to training, and the same shortage is responsible for the acute difficulties facing mankind despite the advance of science.

Addressing the audience, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, while stressing the need for realism and moderation as the best tools of attracting trained manpower, said: Your task is particularly delicate; and if you remain logical and realistic in your work, and avoid excessiveness and rigidity, you can win the trust of the students and achieve success in your work.

According to a report of the Central News Unit, during these ceremonies, which were also attended by deputies of educational officials and a number of responsible authorities of the education and training ministry, Minister of Education and Training Mr. Najafi evaluated the department's activities while presenting a report on the 11 years of its achievements.

A six-point resolution was read out at the conclusion of these ceremonies. The resolution says in part: We, the children of the Islamic revolution, support the gains of the revolution, the principle of the vice regency of the jurisconsult and leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i; and we shall make the aspirations and principle introduced by his holiness the imam, may Almighty God be satisfied by his deeds, the manifesto of our work.

The resolution also expressed full support for the government's economic, social and cultural plans, and stressed the need for paying attention to the cultural and leisure requirements of young people.

Yazdi's Remarks Seen Intimidation of Opposition

LD2202210590 (Clandestine) Radio of Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, yesterday the broadcasting station of the regime extensively broadcast remarks by

Yazdi, head of the judiciary, at the gathering of the judicial authorities. [passage omitted]

At it is seen, the gathering of top brass of the judiciary at the meeting, as well as remarks by Yazdi, signify the political importance of that meeting. It shows that very important issues were discussed. Though the decisions of the meeting have not been revealed, the remarks by Yazdi underline their direction. Conducting the meeting and Yazdi's remarks, coming soon after the recent demonstrations in Tehran, have intensified the anxiety of the progressive circles in Iran and the world. Yazdi said the judiciary would stand up against any kind of insurgency, murder, and crime. [passage omitted]

Yazdi has termed all these cases, from burglary to what he calls insurgency, as obvious cases of enmity [to God]. That means nothing but a wave of executions; especially when one learns that a few hours after Yazdi made his remarks, Tehran radio reported the execution of 30 people whose said crimes were smuggling narcotics. [passage omitted]

What is frightening about Yazdi's remarks is they pose a threat. These remarks are meant to intimidate the people and the political opposition. That statement, coming in the wake of the execution of 30 people in 10 cities during 24 hours, shows in a better light the fact the leaders of the regime have decided to keep the situation on the course they desire through shedding more blood and by a reign of terror.

Yazdi's iron fist is not meant to frighten some thieves and other small time criminals. These crimes always take place in the Islamic Republic. During the past 10 years, the pages of the state-controlled newspapers have been full of such items. The leaders of the regime never have said burglary and similar crimes have endangered the security of the country. Though Yazdi has cleverly tried to mix these burglaries with what he calls insurgencies against the security of the country—and to murder the political opponents on charges of burglary—everyone knows the top brass of the judiciary are not invited to find ways of dealing with thieves and burglars. At issue is something else: intimidation of political opponents and the protesting people.

Such an inference is confirmed by the mass execution of 30 people under the accusation of being smugglers. This is especially so because up to now, the regime has executed many political prisoners under the false title of smugglers. The fact is the grand demonstration of last Friday in Tehran frightened the leaders of the regime. We remind you that soon after the demonstrations, the State Security Council convened promptly with Rafsanjani in the chair. The gathering of the top brass of the judiciary also has been convened for that same reason. We said the decisions of that meeting have not been announced. But it is obvious the heads of the regime have decided to create a new wave of oppression and bloodshed. What is most worrying is the fate of those arrested during the recent demonstrations. A large number have been arrested, and it is feared they soon will be sent to the firing squad. Who knows, many of them might have been executed under the false label of smuggler.

The regime leaders believe through new methods of oppression against the people and freedom-seekers, they can annihilate the people's campaign. But they are making mistakes. No measure can save the heads of the regime from responsibility tomorrow for their crimes today. What is important today is to save the lives of those who have been arrested during the recent demonstrations, as well as the political prisoners. That must be done through increasing our pressure on the regime. We must force the regime to abandon death sentences and free the political prisoners. In the same way as the regime was forced, under heavy pressure from the freedom-seekers, to yield to an international team to visit the prisons, if the campaign continues in unison, then it also will be forced to yield major retreats against the demands for abolition of death sentences, freedom of political prisoners, and respect for people's democratic rights.

Kharrazi Reports to President on Resolution 598

LD2102122990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Mr. Kamal Kharrazi, Iran's permanent representative at the United Nations, was received by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, this morning. At the meeting, Mr. Kharrazi submitted a report to the president on the trend of the Iran-Iraq peace talks and ways of implementing Security Council Resolution 598.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani gave him the necessary guidelines, while reiterating the necessity of designating and adhering to the priorities of the resolution, as well as safeguarding its generalities.

ETTELA'AT Editorial on 'Exporting' Revolution

NC1802134690 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 7 Feb 90 pp 1, 3

[Editorial: "11 February, the Dawn of a New Era"]

[Excerpts] The nature of our revolution closely resembles the sun, which cannot be contained within the four walls. Maulana Kausar Niazi, in his paper presented at the international conference on the mode of thought of Imam Khomeyni, stated: "Unlike other revolutions of the world, the Islamic revolution of Iran does not have any need to export its revolution, since others will import it themselves from Iran." [passage omitted]

The fact is that we do not prevent exporting the revolution. We should not do so, and we cannot do so. The revolution, in essence, is capable of exporting itself. Imam Khomeyni, may God be pleased with him, had explained the matter saying that exporting the revolution is actually exporting the revolution's culture. We are not

seeking anyone in this world with a sword. We are not imposing our religion on anyone, nor do we covet anyone's territory.

The revolution's culture will export itself. It will overflow, seek its own path, and go wherever it can. We only take a sword in our hands when we need it for self-defense, to defend our nation, our integrity, and our wealth, or to thwart aggression and the aggressor so that we will not have to bow before the tyrants.

Today the people of Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, Jordan, Great Britain, some European countries, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Kashmir, Azerbaijan, Africa, Southeast Asia, and every part of the world where people have the name of Imam Khomeyni inscribed in their hearts or his name is constantly on their tongues, strive to revitalize and resuscitate the pure Islamic aspirations. Have they been led in this direction by swords and guns?

The fact is that they have imported the auspicious essence and meaning of the revolution into their own country and homeland like a gust of the enervating spring breeze and are now striving to inhale its freshness. [passage omitted]

The date, 11 February, reminds us once again of these facts and circumstances. How long can one contain the sun's rays or the sea's waves behind walls and veils? The 11th of February marks the birth of a new promise, a new era. The pallor of the first half of the 20th century has been replaced by the color of the new era which has dawned in the second half of the 20th century.

Editorial Calls Stadium Disturbances 'Shameful'

NC2302163690 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 17 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Another Faux Pas in the New Sports Policy"]

[Text] A shameful scene fraught with savagery was witnessed yesterday, merely because of the cancellation of a soccer match at the Azadi sports stadium. A handful of vagrants and hooligans who had donned the mask of "sports fans" were responsible. This is in fact another faux pas of the new sports policy.

If the people were to see such a scene on their television screens or hear from their sports commentators that this was a scene from the United States or Great Britain, it would not cause any amazement as this is a normal phenomenon on their sports fields. But why in Iran?

Sports analysts hold various opinions on yesterday's incidents and attribute them to the cancellation of the match, lack of cooperation by sports officials, shortcomings on the part of the news media in not carrying a timely announcement of the cancellation, and so on. Much has been said and heard on the matter. However, the facts are different, and attempting to seek the cause for this savagery among such utterances would be a mistake on the part of the sports analysts. What is the real reason?

We should seek the reason in the overall sports policy and the mode of thought that prevails in the minds of the sports officials in our society. If a correct policy is pursued then all those who came to the Azadi stadium would have expressed regret at the cancellation of the match and would have walked away, or if they had been told of a new date for the match they would have gone home happily.

However, when the sports policy is designed to arouse a fever which grips the entire society, then it is not possible to expect anything but agitation and savagery from those who have travelled long distances to the Azadi stadium. Meanwhile, opportunists are always lying in wait to capitalize on such situations and will catch their desired fish in the murky waters.

This is the difference between the policy of "popularizing sports" and of "popularizing a craze for sports." Unfortunately the latter seems to be more intense. The sports themselves have been relegated into the background and sports are being used as a lever.

It is hoped that the shameful spectacle witnessed yesterday will shake the sports officials and publications out of their complacency and will make them realize that the present sports policy is erroneous and should be revised before it is too late. In this way society may be safe from the destructive repercussions of the "policy of popularizing a craze for sports," God willing.

Four Reported Killed in Tehran Demonstration

LA2702201090 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Four people were killed and scores wounded in the largest anti-regime demonstrations staged yesterday in Tehran's 24 Esfand Square. Our fellow strugglers have reported that these demonstrations began at 1100 in 24 Esfand Square and Tehran University with the participation of more than 30,000 people. In these glorious demonstrations the people chanted slogans against Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and called for the overthrow of the Islamic Republic regime.

Our fellow strugglers add that these demonstrations continued sporadically until 1700. During the demonstrations the people carried the Iranian tricolor lion and sun flag, as well as large pictures of Reza Pahlavi, king of Iran. One hour after the start of these massive demonstrations some of the regime's repressive guards attacked the ranks of the heroic Tehran citizens and opened fire on them, resulting in the death of four of the best sons of this country and the wounding of scores of others.

Velayati Departs on for Ghana, African Tour

NC2802070790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Mr. Velayati, our foreign minister, left Tehran this morning at the head of a high-level political delegation for Accra, the Ghanaian capital.

According to the Central News Unit, Mr. Velayati and his accompanying delegation will pay an official visit to Ghana, Senegal, Mali, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria and will discuss bilateral relations, regional issues, and outstanding international topics with high-level officials in these countries.

Turkish Premier, Delegation Arrive for Visit

Economic Delegation Arrives 26 Feb

LD2602213190 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA—Turkey's minister of state for foreign trade Cemil Cicak arrived here today at the head of a ranking economic delegation to participate in the 8th Tehran-Ankara joint trade commission to start Tuesday.

Cicak said the major objectives of the commission is to explore the two countries potentials for mutual benefit. Expansion of Tehran-Ankara relations, bilateral cooperation in transportation and joint investments in industrial and energy fields will be discussed at the commission, he noted. Cash transactions regarding bilateral trade will also figure up in the meetings, added the Turkish official.

Regarding Iran's gas and oil trunkline project, part of which is to pass through Turkish soil, Cicak stressed that his country is keen on seeing its execution, and hoped Turkey would use Iran's natural gas in its domestic market.

Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut is due in Tehran Tuesday to attend the joint economic commission.

Premier Akbulut Arrives 27 Feb

LD2702111390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] The Turkish premier arrived in Tehran at the head of a high-ranking delegation this afternoon. He was welcomed by Mr Habibi, first deputy president. Our correspondent reports:

[Begin correspondent recording] Turkish Premier Mr. Yildirim Akbulut arrived in Tehran this afternoon at the official invitation of Mr. Habibi, first deputy president. He was welcomed at Mehrabad airport by Mr. Habibi and a number of Majles deputies and our country's officials.

On arrival in Tehran, the Turkish premier inspected the guard of honour at Mehrabad airport. Let me add that, during his stay in our country we will meet and confer with Messrs Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president; Karrubi, the Majles speaker; Velayati, our country's foreign minister; and other officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Begins Official Contacts

TA2702195090 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1800 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut has begun his official contacts in Iran. Official talks between the delegations of the two countries are also under way. Serdar Dimli reports from Tehran:

The special plane carrying Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut and the delegation accompanying him arrived at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport at noon today. Akbulut was ceremoniously received here by Iranian First Deputy President Hasan Habibi. [passage omitted]

Official talks between Turkish and Iranian delegations began in Tehran in the afternoon. Akbulut and Habibi headed the Turkish and Iranian delegations respectively. State Minister Cemil Cicek and Heavy Industries Minister Nejad-Hoseinian, who are the cochairmen of the joint economic committee, are also participating in the talks.

After attending the official talks, Akbulut received Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati at the S'adabad Palace, where he is staying.

On his way from Ankara to Tehran, Akbulut replied to various questions by journalists who are accompanying him. He recalled that his visit to Iran is his first visit abroad. Pointing out that Turkey has a good relationship with Iran dating back many years, he said that he wanted this relationship to be further promoted, taking advantage of the existing potentials. He added that efforts will be made in a bid to realize the trade volume target of $1 billion set for 1990.

In response to a question, he said that he was closely following developments regarding the vote to be taken at the U.S. Senate today on the so-called Armenian bill. I hope, Akbulut said, that the result of the voting will not be of a nature that will undermine and harm the good relationship existing between Turkey and the United States.

Holds Talks With Habibi

LD2702200990 Tehran IRNA in English 1601 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27 IRNA—The first round of talks between visiting Turkish Premier Yildirim Akbulut and Iran's First Vice-President Hasan Habibi was held today.

The Turkish premier said stable and durable ties between the two neighbouring will contribute towards the tranquility of the region. [sentence as received] "I carry the message for expansion of Iran-Turkey relations," he added.

The Islamic Republic also welcomes expansion of relations between the two Muslim neighbours, replied Habibi and called for "promotion and deepening of the bilateral relations."

The Turkish prime minister arrived here today to attend the eighth Tehran-Ankara joint economic commission.

The views of the two countries' senior officials as well as the general issues to be raised at the joint commission were also studied at the meeting.

Technical experts and heads of special committees of thejoint commission who were present at the meeting, presented a brief report on the talks so far held.

Akbulut and Habibi held a private meeting before start of the first round of talks.

Border Trade Agreement Signed

LD2702133190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] We have a report on the signing of an economic protocol between managers of the industrial and manufacturing units of the East Azerbaijan Province and managers of industries in Turkey's eastern provinces, to which we draw your attention.

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] After three days of talks between Turkey's commercial and manufacturing delegation and the managers of the industrial units of the Eastern Azerbaijan Province, held in Tabriz, they reached full agreement. On the basis of the articles of the protocol they signed, the Turkish delegation has declared its readiness to set up a tire manufacturing unit, and export industrial acid, pipes, office equipment, cheese, and edible oils. In return it was agreed to export annually 500 tonnes of sea salt with iodine, 1,000 tonnes of coal, mosaic tiles, raw [word indistinct], dried fruits and nuts, and other agricultural products from the Eastern Azerbaijan Province to Turkey, within the framework of the agreement on barter transactions.

During these talks it was also agreed to set up an exhibition of the neighbouring provinces' products in the Turkish city of Erzurum in the near future. [end recording]

Bilateral Relations Reviewed

NC2702143190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God. Within the framework of the friendly ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Yildirim Akbulut, Turkish prime minister, is scheduled to arrive in Tehran today at the head of a delegation. This visit is to take place within the framework of annual visits by high-level officials of the two countries and to reciprocate last year's visit by Mir Hoseyn Musavi, then Iranian prime minister.

During this visit, talks and discussions on bilateral relations, regional issues, and expanding economic and trade exchanges will be among the important topics on the agenda. In addition to political discussions, during the Turkish premier's visit to Tehran the convocation of the eighth session of the commission on economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries is of special significance.

In this regard, in addition to the visit by the deputy minister of revenue and foreign trade [title as heard], in the past few months, Tehran has hosted some other Turkish officials. A while ago, during the visit by the Turkish communications minister to Iran, a protocol intended to boost cooperation between two countries in communications and telecommunications was signed. This protocol includes provisions for as much as 700,000 tons of Iranian cargo to transit the Turkish port of Trabzon in 1990, an increase of 400 percent more than last year.

The restoration of the rail link between Istanbul and Tehran and the air link between Istanbul and Tabriz are part of this protocol. Also, with the opening of commercial centers for the border residents and merchants of Iran and Turkey, commercial and economic relations between the two countries assumed a new dimension this year. In the free trade areas of Van and Izmir Provinces in Turkey and the West Azerbaijan Province in our country, $15 million of permitted goods will be exchanged annually without any additional legal formalities.

Regarding commercial exchanges between Iran and Turkey on the basis of the protocol for commercial and economic cooperation between them signed in 1987 in Tehran, the quantity of trade exchanged by the two countries had been forecast to total $1.8 billion. Of this amount, $1.4 billion has been exchanged. In last year's protocol, the $2 billion in trade exchanges planned could not be attained due to some political bottlenecks.

Early this year, Iranian public opinion about the Turkish Government's rigid stance on the Muslim students' desire to wear Islamic apparel at universities created problems in Tehran-Ankara ties. These culminated in the Turkish Government's recalling its ambassador on 3 April 1989, and our envoy was given one week in which to leave the country.

This crisis was on the pretext of the Islamic Republic of Iran's defense of Islamic apparel and the participation of the Turkish envoy in one of the gatherings held by the (Rafa') faction on the Palestine issue. This became the reason for freezing relations between the two countries. The immature and irresponsible stance adopted by the Turkish press further exacerbated the tension. However, in any case, a while after the regulation banning Islamic apparel in universities was annulled by the Turkish Higher Education Organization, the crisis in Tehran-Ankara relations subsided. With the normalization of

relations, political and economic links between the two countries continued at the anticipated level.

On the whole, in view of the attention to the expanding scope for broadening relations between the two countries, it is expected that the visit by the high-level Turkish delegation, in addition to consolidating present relations, will result in expanding the quantity of mutual exchanges and technical and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

Omani Minister Ends 'Highly Successful' Talks

LD2302135690 Tehran IRNA in English 1242 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 23, IRNA—Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-al-Alawi 'Abdallah left Tehran Friday at the end of a 2-day visit and was seen off by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The Omani official in an interview at the airport before departure described his visit to Tehran as "highly successful and fruitful".

Bin-al-Alawi referring to Iran's cooperation with the regional states, said that the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) is willing to cooperate with Iran. He described Iran's position in this respect as positive and added that the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced readiness to strengthen its relations with the regional countries.

On PGCC's efforts concerning Iran-Iraq peace talks, Bin-al-Alawi said that these moves are within the framework of the UN secretary general's efforts for implementation of the UN Resolution 598.

Terming the talks with the Omani delegation as constructive, Velayati said that they centered on improving Iran's relations with the regional states, both individually and collectively.

The foreign minister referring to the PGCC efforts concerning the Iran-Iraq peace talks, said the Omani delegation had held talks with Iraqi authorities prior to talks with Iranian officials.

"We have always been for the full implementation of the UN resolution and accept any efforts in this regard," Velayati added.

On the UN secretary general's report to the Security Council on Iran-Iraq peace talks, Velayati said that Iran has received the report unofficially and through the media. He added that Iran's position will be announced after the official report is received and studied. He stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran has cooperated sincerely with the secretary general.

While in Tehran the Omani official held talks with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

British Court Rules Deportations 'Illegal'

LD2202201390 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Excerpts] London, Feb. 22, IRNA—Following a UK high court ruling on Wednesday [21 February], that deportation orders made against two immigrants were illegal, speculations are growing in Britain that many thousands of people may have been deported from Britain illegally in the past.

The high court ruled that Britain's former home secretary, Douglas Hurd, had acted unlawfully by delegating powers to subordinates, who then issued deportation orders to immigrants. [passage omitted]

It is not clear whether future deportations on the grounds of "security" will be affected by the high court ruling and the Home Office has declined to comment on deportations of Iranians already made, and claimed that figures and information are not available for individual nationalities, although the total number of deportations made in 1988, of all nationalities, was 1,407, they said.

Around 30 Iranians have been deported from Britain since the beginning of the Satanic Verses issue, nine of whom were deported on 8 February 1990. However, the total number of Iranians who have entered Britain since the Islamic Revolution in Iran up until and including 1988, is 14,720, the Home Office added.

University Chancellor Condemns UK Police Actions

LD2402170690 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] The chancellor of Tehran University has sent a letter to the chancellor of Manchester University, condemning the British police for attacking and insulting a number of Iranian students.

In the letter, the chancellor of Tehran University also condemned the British police for attacking the homes of a number of Manchester University's Iranian students and called on the Manchester University authorities to condemn that regrettable action of the British police.

Committee for Expelled Students on UK Action

LD1102202190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Following the expulsion of a number of Iranian students and subjects from Britain by the British Government, which coincided with the anniversary of the issuance of the fatwa concerning Salman Rushdie by His Holiness Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be sanctified—Shari'ati spokesman for the committee for the protection of students oppressed by the British regime, in an interview with our reporter, pointed to the reason for the formation of the committee to attend to the affairs of the students expelled from Britain, and said: The government in power in Britain, after the issuance of the historic fatwa of his holiness the imam, may his dust be

sanctified, in order to cover its humiliation, reacted by expelling Iranian Muslim students, thinking in vain that it has removed the main and active cell connected to the task of implementing the edict of the imam—may his soul be accepted in paradise.

The spokesman for the committee for the protection of students oppressed by the British regime said: In connection with the committee's activities inside the country, we evidently met relevant officials here and there and efforts are being made, reflecting the importance of the matter. I am sure that our officials are fully aware of the problem and evidently, it is expected that there should be a decisive reaction to these moves. If one of Britain's subjects were to be accused in another country—including accusations which are universally viewed as offenses, such as narcotics, murder, and plunder, etc.—because such persons are their subjects they would try to give them favorable media coverage to convey the idea that something important has occurred. They try to protect their subjects who have justly or unjustly been accused. Of course I am sure that our officials too will, God willing, adopt this approach. This is our expectation and our aim.

New Zealand Minister Meets With Vahaji

LD2602143290 Tehran IRNA in English 1300 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA—Visiting minister of external relations and international trade of New Zealand Michael Moore reviewed Iran-New Zealand's trade and economic relations in a meeting with Iranian Commerce Minister 'Abd-al-Hoseyn Vahaji here Monday.

They also studied topics in relation with importation of dairy products, and meat and wool from New Zealand, technical cooperation in wool-spinning industry, building and maintenance of cold storages and export of Iran-made products to New Zealand.

Moore announced his country's readiness to expand her commercial relations with Iran and participate in its development projects.

The New Zealand minister also met with the head of Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines 'Ali Naqi Khamushi here today and discussed with him prospects for broadening economic, trade and inudstrial ties between the two countries.

Moore arrived here on 25 February to attend the 2nd session of a joint agricultural and commercial commission.

Concludes 'Positive' Visit

LD2702093790 Tehran IRNA in English 0715 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27, IRNA—New Zealand Minister of External Relations and International Trade Michael Moore left Tehran Tuesday morning at the end of a 2-day visit and talk with Iranian officials.

The New Zealand minister and the accompanying delegation were seen off at Tehran International Airport by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Commenting on the outcome of his talks with the Iranian officials, Moore said that agreements were reached on expansion of Tehran-Wellington agricultural cooperation especially in the fields of animal husbandry, technology and training.

Describing the visit as positive, Velayati said that important talks were held on political, economic and regional issues. He also added that the visit was of importance in the light of the forthcoming visit to New Zealand of the Iranian agriculture minister and holding of the joint Iran-New Zealand economic commission in that country.

Describing the future of Tehran-Wellington relations as promising, Velayati said that Iran could make use of New Zealand's experience and expertise in agriculture and transfer of agricultural technology and training of manpower.

Meanwhile Moore in a meeting with Construction Minister Gholam Reza Foruzesh here Monday discussed issues of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation.

Foruzesh referring to efforts and programs of his ministry for rural development called for Tehran-Wellington agricultural cooperation in the fields of manpower training, technology transfer, and development and management of pastures and forests.

Welcoming cooperation with the construction ministry, Moore expressed hope that the mutual cooperation will be raised in the forthcoming session of the joint commission in Wellington.

New Envoy to Japan Seeks Enhanced Relations

LD2102115990 Tehran IRNA in English 0903 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21, IRNA—"Japan attaches great importance to its ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran," said Japanese Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Kuriyama Takakazu in a meeeting with the newly appointed Iranian Ambassador to Tokyo Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili, here Wednesday.

The Japanese official added that the prevalent political stability in Iran and the new government of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani provide suitable conditions for expansion of Tehran-Tokyo cooperation.

He also stressed that in the light of importance of bilateral relations his country is ready to cooperate for further promotion of the ties.

Kazempur-Ardabili, who presented a copy of his credentials pointed out that in view of the Iranian officials there

was no limit for broadening of ties with Japan. "Iran could remain a reliable source of supplying energy to Japan in the long run," he told the Japanese official.

On the state of Iran-Iraq peace talks and implementation of the U.N. resolution 538, the Iranian ambassador said that large-scale reconstruction works undertaken in war-damaged areas is indicative of Iran's interest in establishment of a lasting peace in the region. He also expressed the hope that Japan would become more active in solving the problems created by Iraq.

Takakazu stressed that the situation of no peace no war did not serve interests of the regional countries and assured the Iranian diplomat that his country would cooperate with the U.N. secretary general for establishment of a lasting peace within the framework of the Resolution 538.

Karrubi Receives Nicaraguan Envoy 24 Feb

LD2402120790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] The Nicaraguan ambassador to Tehran met today with Majles speaker Mr. Karrubi, and submitted a written message from his country's parliament speaker. Mr Karrubi, while remarking on the depth of friendship between the two countries nations and governments, expressed hope that in the future the good relations between the two countries parliaments would compliment the existing relations between Iran and Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan ambassador to Tehran reiterated his country's support for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598, and expressed his gratitude to the Iranian Government, the Majles, and people, for supporting the Nicaraguan people against U.S. aggression.

Revolution Guards Corps Chief of Staff Interviewed

NC2102123090 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 13 Feb 90 pp 2, 7

[Text] Tehran—According to the country's Five-Year Plan, now under last considerations for total approval by the Constitution's Guardian Council, the Armed Forces including the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), should participate in the national reconstruction efforts in diversified ways.

Welcoming this, Chief of Staff of the Guards Corps Baqer Zu ol-Qadr says the revolutionary military institution would go out of its way to take part in the reconstruction efforts. "But we shall certainly keep up our combat readiness while engaging in reconstructional activities," he stresses.

Zu ol-Qadr who was talking to the TEHRAN TIMES in a recent interview said units from the Revolutionary Corps had already launched their reconstruction campaign and activities in parts of the war-affected areas such as Khorramshahr and Abadan.

"In general the Sepah (Guards Corps) has shouldered the responsibility to handle all affairs that one way or another concern defensive issues," he remarked.

Commenting on the combat readiness of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Zu ol-Qadr said in fact the Sepah had upgraded its military prowess since the country accepted U.N. sponsored ceasefire Resolution 598 in August 1988. "I dare say we have now overcome all the efficiencies that might have existed at that time," he stated.

Zu ol-Qadr is a veteran of the eight-year war against the Iraqi forces (1980-88) and is among the first recruits of the Revolutionary Corps. He has served in various staff and command posts and is presently the chief of the staff of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

The Sepah's general staff which is now under his command is responsible for organizing, support and supervising all the executive affairs for the four branches of the Revolutionary Corps including Air, Ground, Naval and Mobilization Forces.

In the same interview Zu ol-Qadr said a system of ranking has already been prepared and submitted to the Armed Forces General Command for approval. Once approved the system will entitle the Revolutionary Guards to military ranks. The guards, in both ordinary and commanding levels, have not had any military ranks yet.

According to the Sepah's chief of staff the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps and the regular Armed Forces are now in constant contact and cooperation especially in matters of training.

Leadership Unit Welcomes People's Suggestions

LD2102105290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] The leadership secretariat's unit in charge of liaison with the people has declared its readiness for receiving people's suggestions and opinions. In a statement issued in that connection, it said: The esteemed leadership secretariat's unit in charge of liaison with the people is ready to receive people's suggestions and opinions from 0700 to 1700 every day. They should dial the following telephone numbers: 660074 and 669769.

*Efforts To Weaken Regime 'Shall Be Dealt With'

90OI0172A London KEYHAN in Persian 1 Feb 90 p 4

[Text] The prosecutor general of the Islamic regime threatened to prosecute those who criticize the regime and especially to question the issue of borrowing from foreign sources.

The above-mentioned official announced explicitly that criticism for the purpose of conspiracy and weakening

the religious guardianship [velayat-e faqih] and the leadership is not allowed, and those who engage in such criticism will be dealt with.

Addressing a group of clerics during a visit to Esfahan, Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri, who is the prosecutor general of the Islamic Republic, said: "Criticism made with good intentions is obligatory to all Muslims. If its purpose is to find fault, whether in regard to officials or others, it is not permitted. And if the purpose of criticism is to conspire and to weaken the leadership, it is not permitted by Islam, and it shall be dealt with."

The prosecutor general added: "Under the present circumstances, when the new government has begun a series of economic programs and hopes to improve the disastrous economic situation, various individuals, wittingly or unwittingly, help the enemy and speak about the issue of borrowing without knowing what borrowing means, whereas there is in fact no borrowing involved at all."

The above-mentioned official continued: "For this reason, the imam said that such individuals should not interfere in politics."

Reyshahri pointed out in another part of his speech: "Of course, constructive criticism must be made by a person who is competent in terms of instructing to do good and prohibiting evil. A person who wants to make a reminder in connection with borrowing should not raise the issue unwittingly so that the foreign media can take advantage of it."

15 Drug Dealers Arrested; Drugs, Weapons Seized

LD2702091390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Fifteen narcotics dealers, active in Bakhtaran Province, were arrested and over 200 kg of opium and number of weapons were seized and handed over to the judicial authorities by Islamic Revolution Committee Guards in the process of the "Zafar-1" excercises.

Also, according to a Central News Unit report, thanks to the efforts of the Sistan and Baluchestan Islamic Revolution Committee Guards, 9,556 grams of narcotics, 60 sheets of hashish, and 660,000 foreign cigarettes were seized during the past few days.

Nepal

Authorities Arrest 400 in 'Black Flag Day' Protest

BK2502154690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1520 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 25 (AFP)—Nepalese authorities arrested over 400 people Sunday, witnesses said, as activists demonstrated to protest what they called three decades of repression under a system that forbids political parties.

The said students, pro-democratic and pro-leftist activists, lawyers, journalists, professors, journalists and a parliamentarian were arrested on "Black Flag Day," where demonstrators nationwide wore black arm bands and carried black flags. The government released no arrest figures.

Shortly before the demonstrations, Padma Ratna Tuladhar, the parliamentarian who was arrested, said the alliance of banned pro-leftist and democratic parties still existed. "It would continue whatsoever the dirty trick the panchayat (partyless or council) government may play against our unity," he said. He said the black flag demonstrations would be peaceful if the riot police abstained from using force.

The first demonstration was held at noon near Jhonchhen Ward under the leadership of Rajendra Kharel, a supporter of the Nepali Congress, the banned party that on February 18 launched a campaign to end Nepal's panchayat or partyless system. Following the demonstration several others participants were also arrested, Nepali Congress spokesman Mr. Prem Lal Singh said.

An afternoon demonstration was jointly staged by the pro-democratic, suspended Kathmandu Town Panchayat Mayor Hari Bol Bhattarai, and Nepal Communist Party activist Hemant Bahadur B.C. They were arrested soon after they appeared in the Khichapokhari area near the U.S. Information Center with black flags and banned party banners. Eyewitnesses said that riot police treated them roughly. Hundreds of riot police were posted along the main street since morning in all public areas of Kathmandu township. Most shops were closed from morning until late afternoon.

Across Nepal, in Rajbiraj, Chitaun District, and the industrial township of Janakpur, there were also "black flag" demonstrations despite the heavy presence of riot police. But arrests were made in all three districts where local transport services were disrupted for several hours, residents said over the telephone.

In Surkhet, 390 kilometres (243 miles) southwest of Kathmandu, the police charged with batons and injured at least 12 demonstrators, the Nepali Congress spokesman said. At a demonstration held in the towhship of Dharan, 260 kilometres (170 miles) east of Kathmandu, about 25 activists were arrested, telephone reports reaching Kathmandu said.

Meanwhile, the chief spokesman of the Nepalese Government Sunday announced the release of an additional 501 people, including students within and outside Kathmandu. A total of 1,094 people have been released, he said, following a wave of arrests in recent weeks. Twelve people, including two policemen, have died in clashes with protesters, the chief spokesman added.

12 Reported Killed

BK2602160890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] The Nepalese Government has admitted that 12 persons were killed in the first two days of the movement demanding multiparty system in the country. The banned Nepali Congress on the other hand maintains that 32 persons have been killed so far. An official spokesman said in Kathmandu that over 1,000 people, who were arrested in connection with the movement, have been released.